

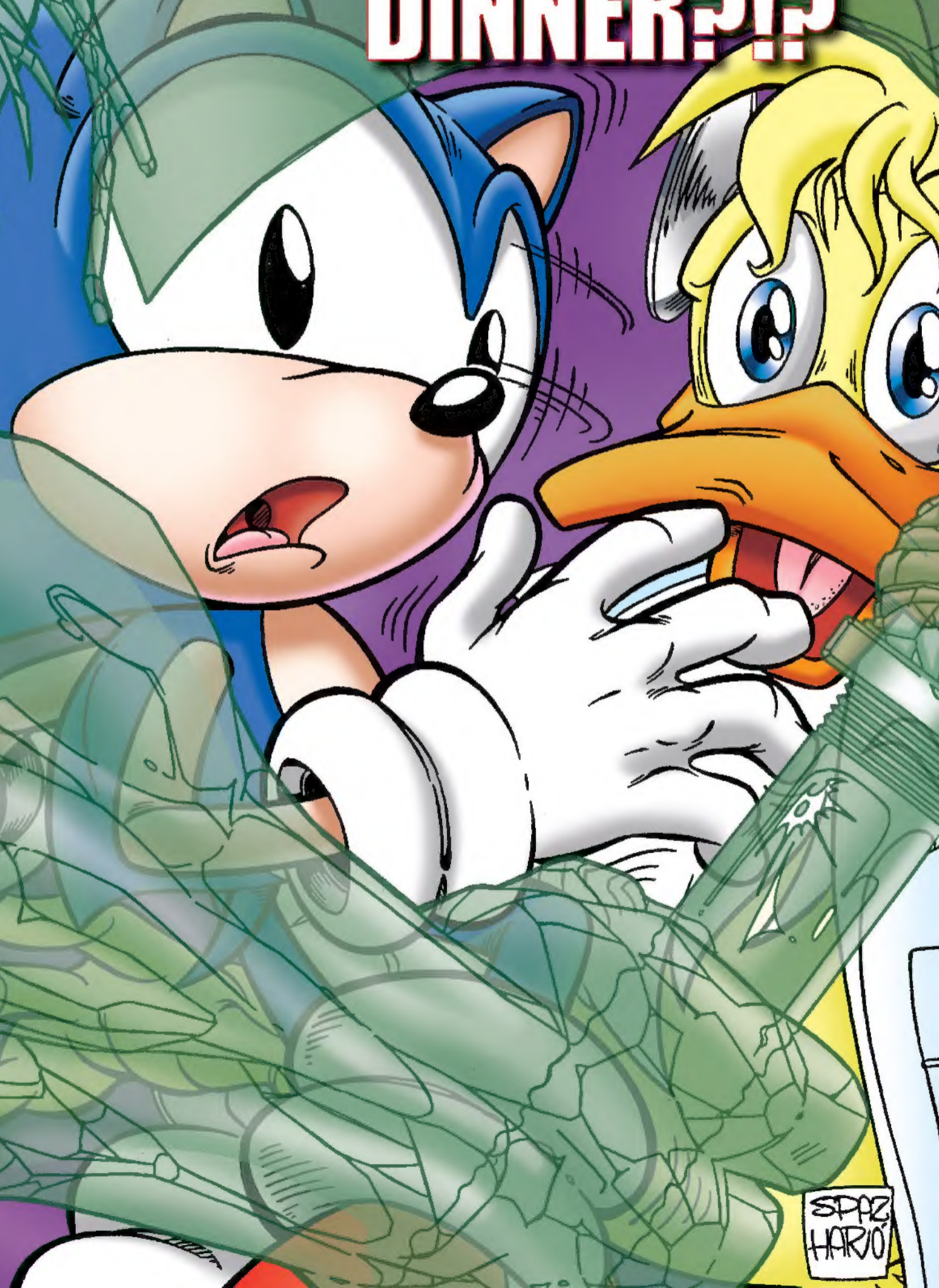
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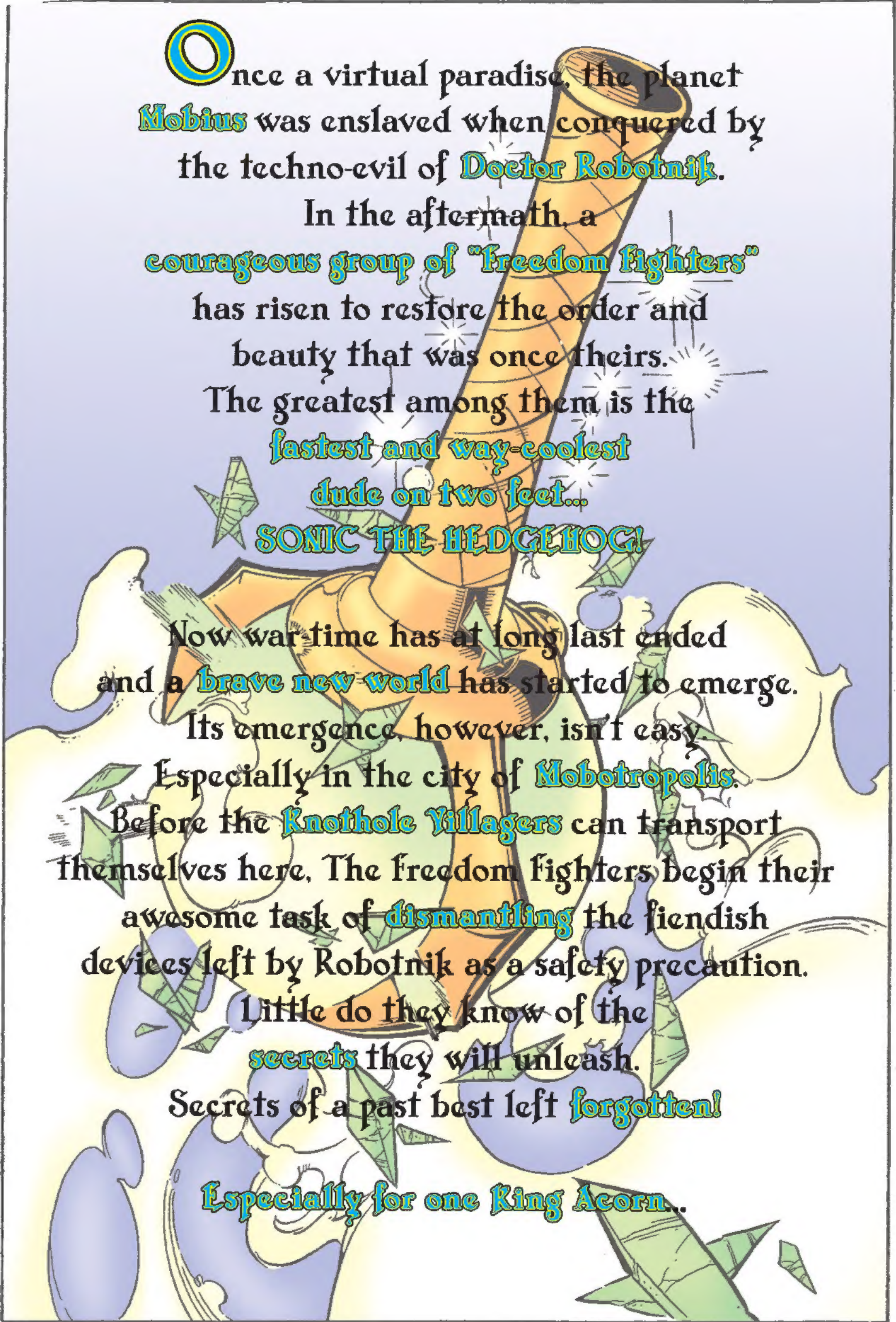
SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG™

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO
DINNER?!?



SPAZ
HARVO



Once a virtual paradise, the planet **Mobius** was enslaved when conquered by the techno-evil of **Doctor Robotnik**.

In the aftermath, a **courageous group of "Freedom Fighters"** has risen to restore the order and beauty that was once theirs.

The greatest among them is the **fastest and way-coolest dude on two feet...**

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

Now war-time has at long last ended and a **brave new world** has started to emerge.

Its emergence, however, isn't easy.

Especially in the city of **Mobotropolis**.

Before the **Knothole Villagers** can transport themselves here, The Freedom Fighters begin their awesome task of **dismantling** the fiendish devices left by Robotnik as a safety precaution.

Little do they know of the **secrets** they will unleash.

Secrets of a past best left **forgotten!**

Especially for one King Acorn...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PRINCESS SALLY!
INCOMING AT TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

KEN PENDERS ART MAWHINNEY
Writer/Inker Penciler
JEFF POWELL KARL BOLLERS
Letterer Colorist
J. FREDDY GABRIE Editor

Hmm! THAT'S QUITE AN UNUSUAL LOOKING CRAFT!

I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE!

MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

YOU SHOULD STAND BEHIND US PRINCESS--

--AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW ZEY ARE FRIENDLY!

YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, ANTOINE!

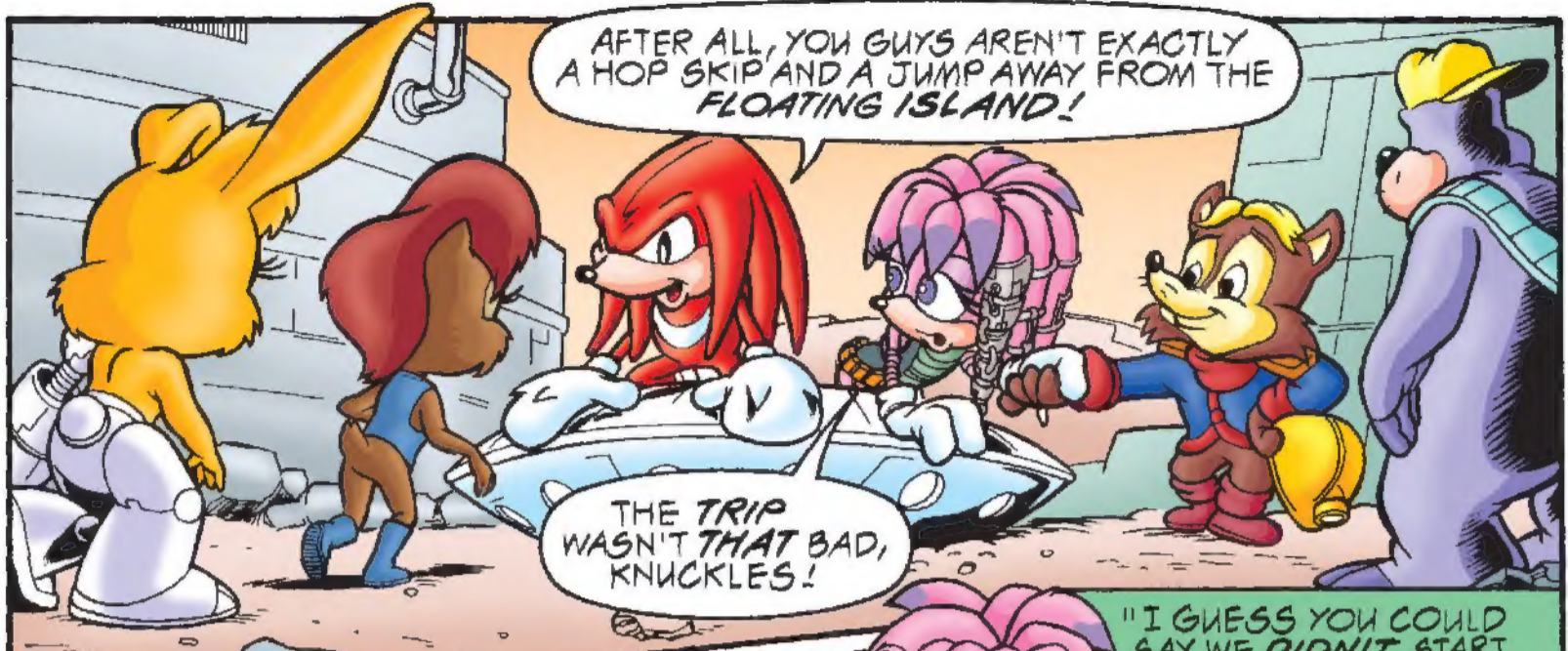
BESIDES--

IT'S ONLY SIR KNUCKLES!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE BROUGHT A FRIEND!

IS THAT ANY WAY TO GREET A GUEST OF THE REALM?

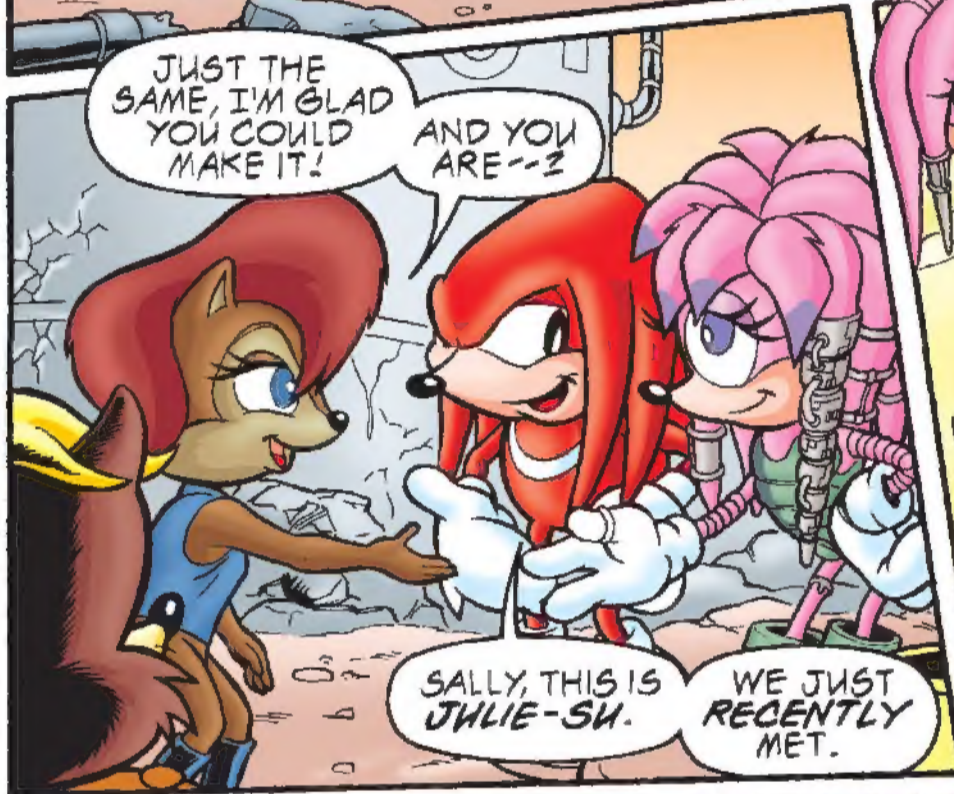
*SALLY KNIGHTED KNUCKLES IN BATTLE ROYAL #1-- EDITOR.



AFTER ALL, YOU GUYS AREN'T EXACTLY A HOP SKIP AND A JUMP AWAY FROM THE FLOATING ISLAND!

THE TRIP WASN'T THAT BAD, KNUCKLES!

"I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE DIDN'T START OUT AS FRIENDS--"



JUST THE SAME, I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!

AND YOU ARE--?

SALLY, THIS IS JULIE-SU.

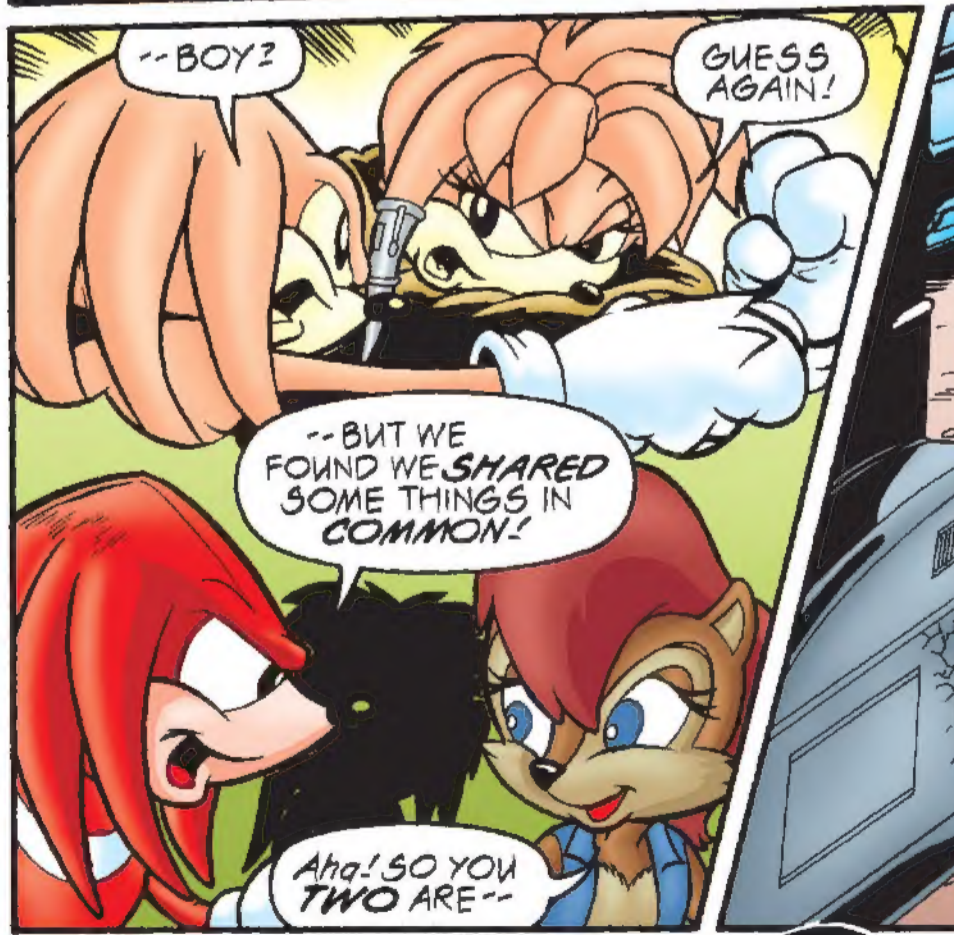
WE JUST RECENTLY MET.



YOU'RE GOING DOWN, PUNK!

YOU THINK YOU'RE ECHIDNA ENOUGH TO DO IT?

* CHECK OUT KNUCKLES # 4 FOR THE FULL STORY. --EDITOR.

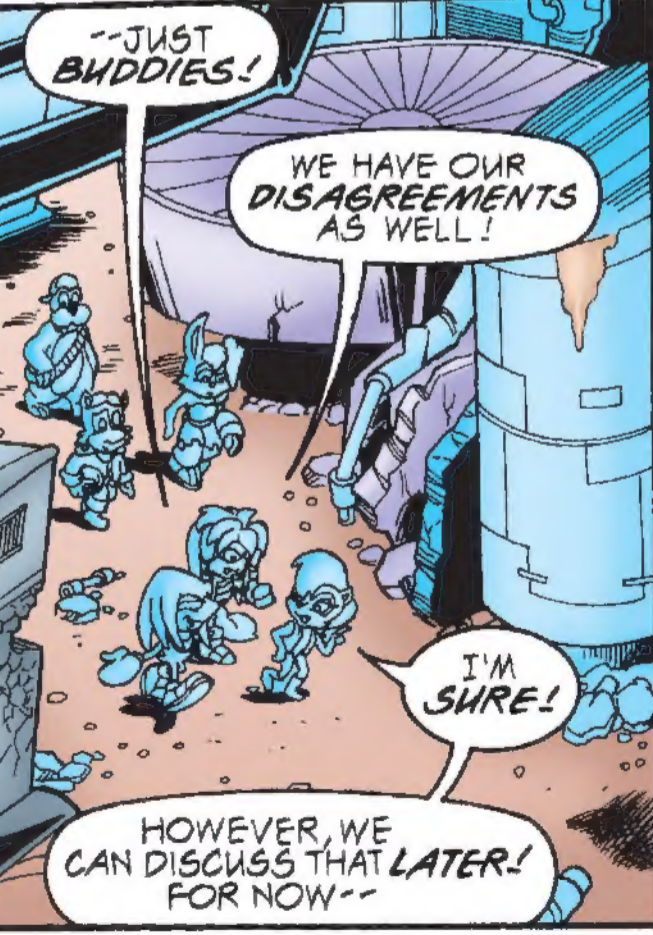


--BOY?

GUESS AGAIN!

--BUT WE FOUND WE SHARED SOME THINGS IN COMMON!

Aha! SO YOU TWO ARE--



--JUST BUDDIES!

WE HAVE OUR DISAGREEMENTS AS WELL!

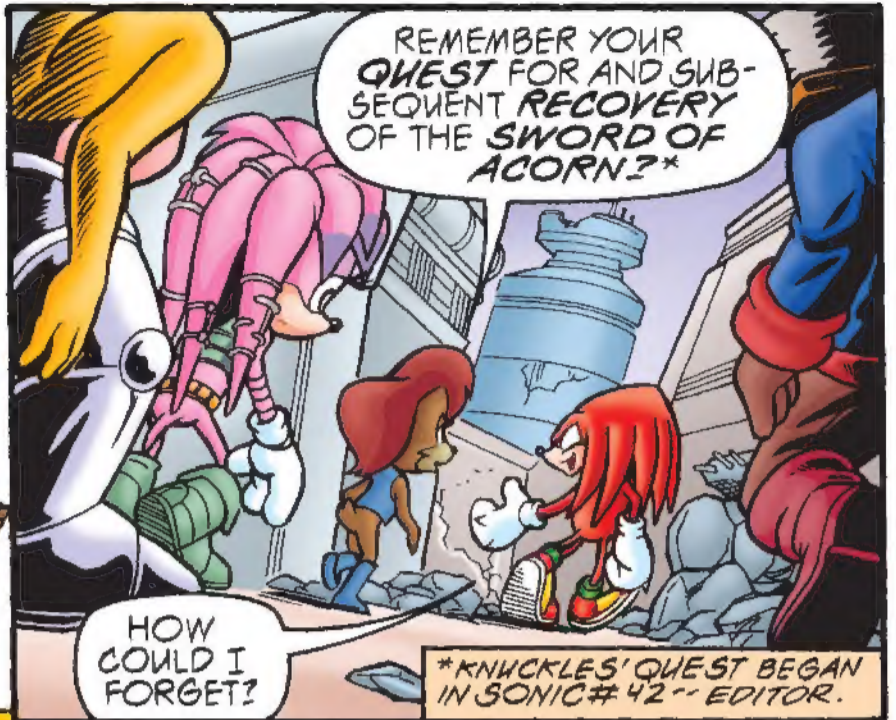
I'M SURE!

HOWEVER, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER! FOR NOW--



THERE ARE MORE URGENT MATTERS TO DISCUSS, DEAR SIR!

SUCH AS?



REMEMBER YOUR QUEST FOR AND SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY OF THE SWORD OF ACORN?*

HOW COULD I FORGET?

*KNUCKLES' QUEST BEGAN IN SONIC # 42 -- EDITOR.

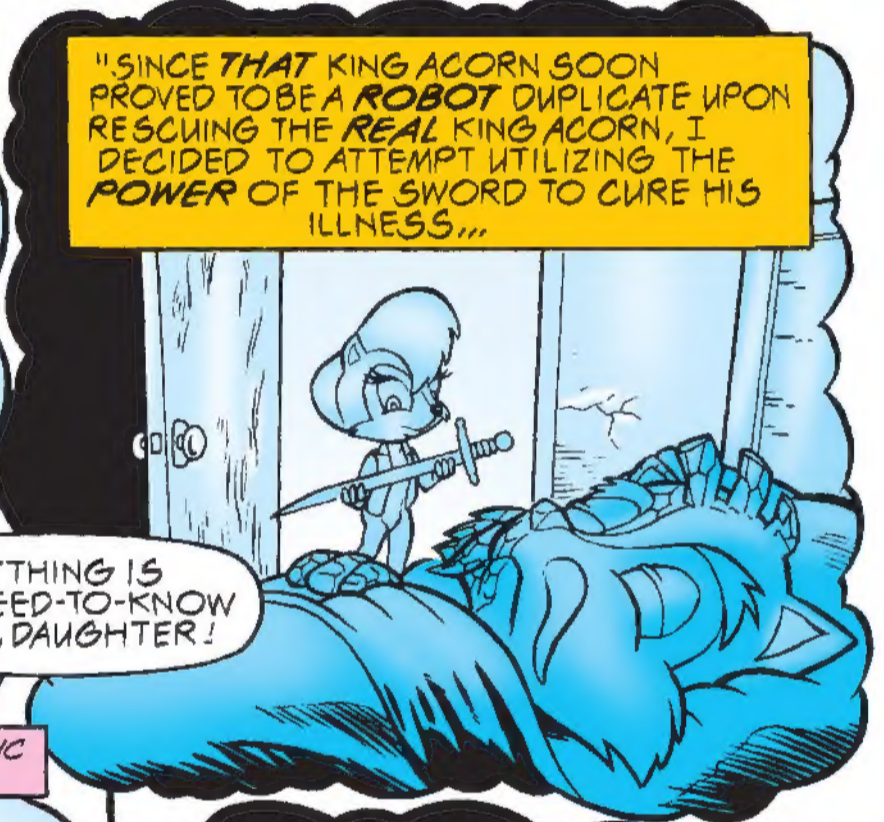


"ONCE THE SWORD WAS IN OUR POSSESSION, WE THOUGHT THE WHOLE EFFORT WASTED UPON SEEING MY FATHER HEALTHY AND VIBRANT!*

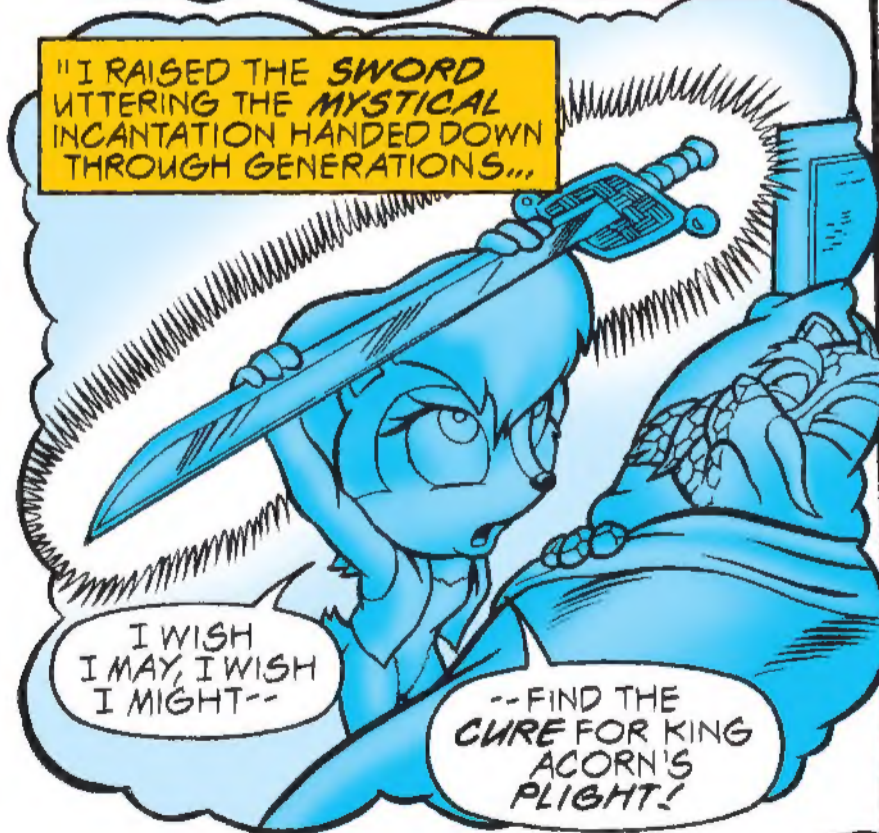
NOBODY HAD INFORMED ME OF YOUR RECOVERY FATHER!

EVERYTHING IS ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS, DAUGHTER!

*IN THE NOW CLASSIC SONIC # 47 -- ED.



"SINCE THAT KING ACORN SOON PROVED TO BE A ROBOT DUPLICATE UPON RESCUING THE REAL KING ACORN, I DECIDED TO ATTEMPT UTILIZING THE POWER OF THE SWORD TO CURE HIS ILLNESS...



"I RAISED THE SWORD UTTERING THE MYSTICAL INCANTATION HANDED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS...

I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT--

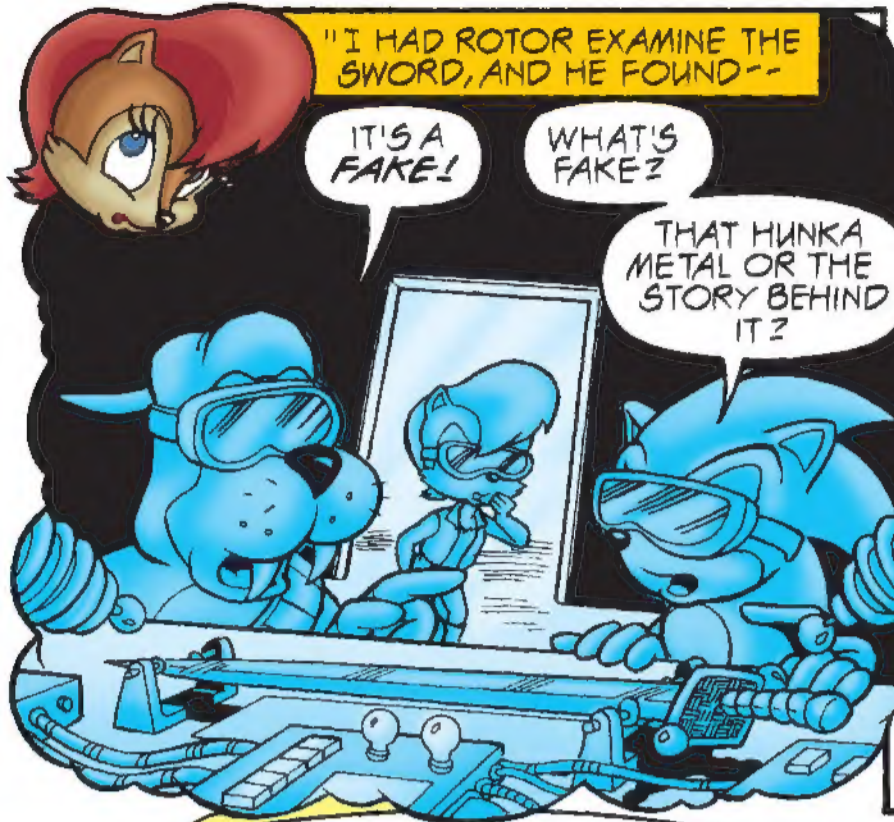
--FIND THE CURE FOR KING ACORN'S PLIGHT!



STUPID SWORD!

--BUT IT WAS HOPELESS!

SO WHAT DID YOU DO?



"I HAD ROTOR EXAMINE THE SWORD, AND HE FOUND--"

IT'S A FAKE!

WHAT'S FAKE?

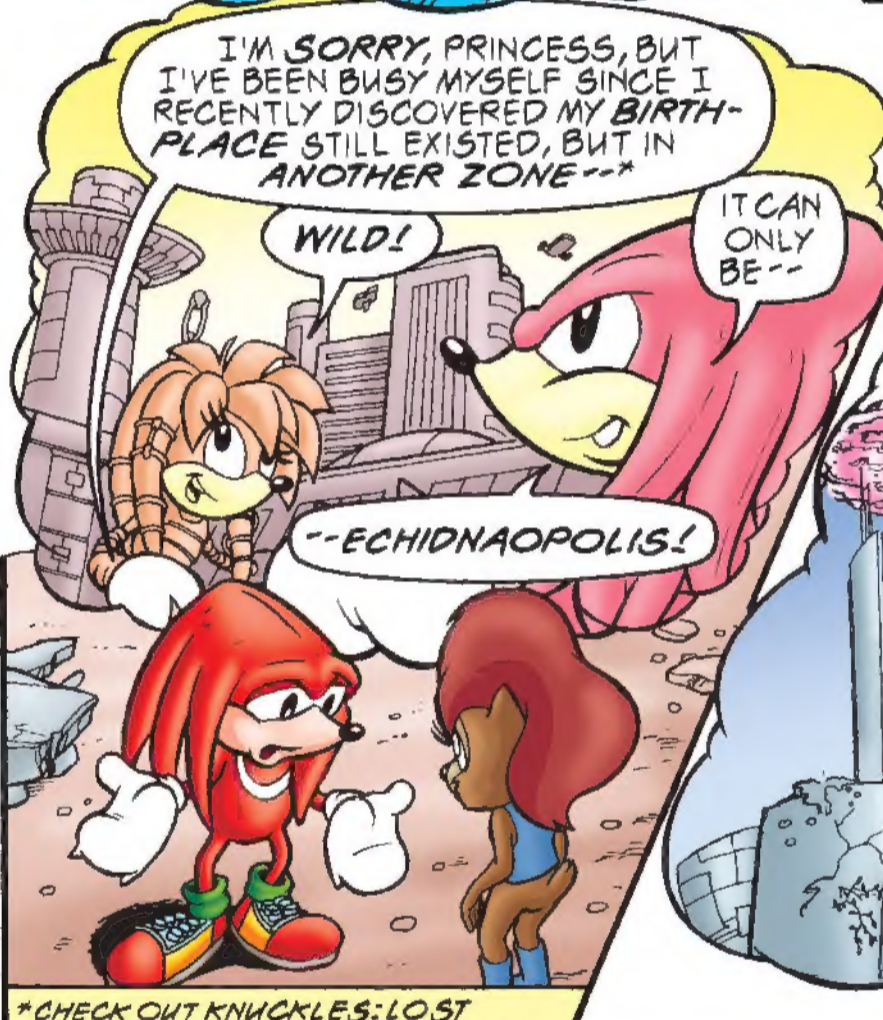
THAT HUNKA METAL OR THE STORY BEHIND IT?



I WAS PLANNING TO GO OFF ON MY OWN QUEST--

-- BUT MY DUTIES SUPERVISING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MOBOTROPOLIS REQUIRED I STAY HERE!

NOW I'M HOPING YOU'RE UP FOR TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO FIND THE TRUE SWORD OF ACORN!

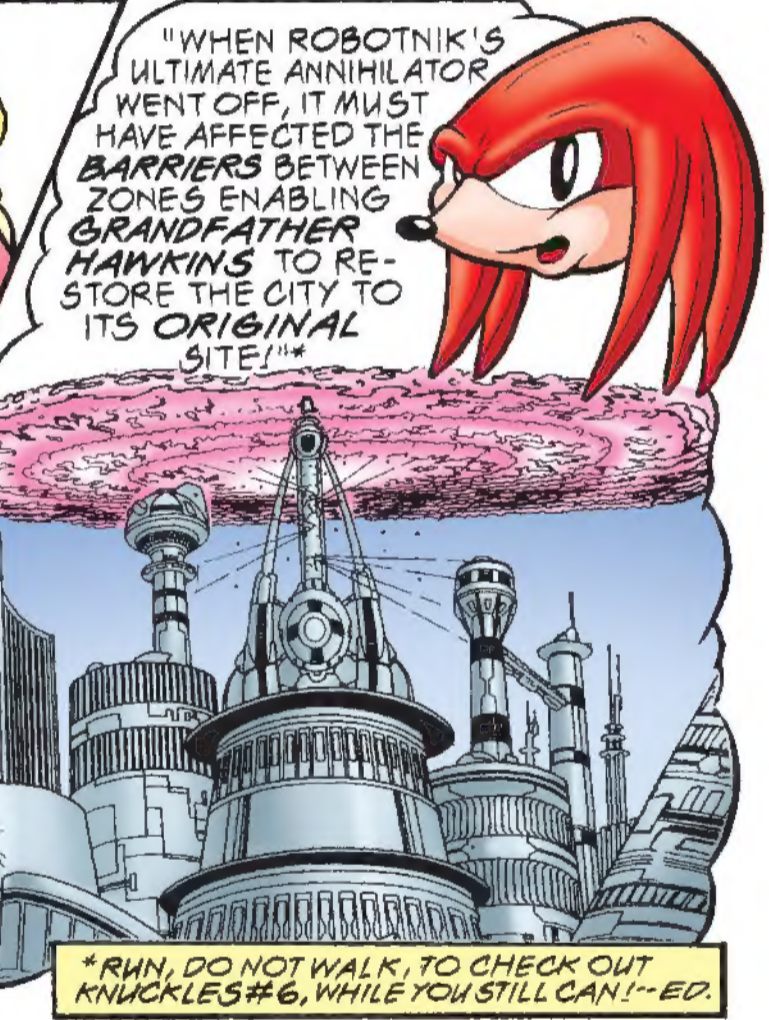


I'M SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT I'VE BEEN BUSY MYSELF SINCE I RECENTLY DISCOVERED MY BIRTH-PLACE STILL EXISTED, BUT IN ANOTHER ZONE--*

WILD!

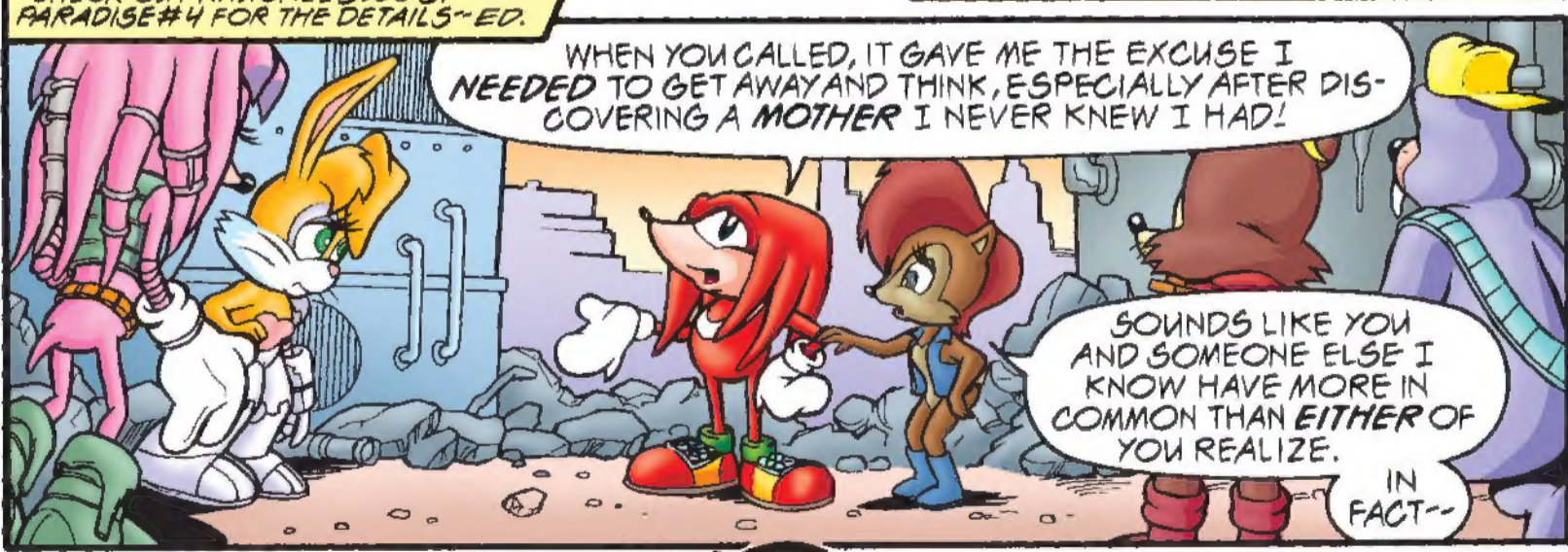
IT CAN ONLY BE--

--ECHIDNAOPOLIS!



"WHEN ROBOTNIK'S ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR WENT OFF, IT MUST HAVE AFFECTED THE BARRIERS BETWEEN ZONES ENABLING GRANDFATHER HAWKINS TO RESTORE THE CITY TO ITS ORIGINAL SITE!''*

*RUN, DO NOT WALK, TO CHECK OUT KNUCKLES#6, WHILE YOU STILL CAN!--ED.



WHEN YOU CALLED, IT GAVE ME THE EXCUSE I NEEDED TO GET AWAY AND THINK, ESPECIALLY AFTER DISCOVERING A MOTHER I NEVER KNEW I HAD!

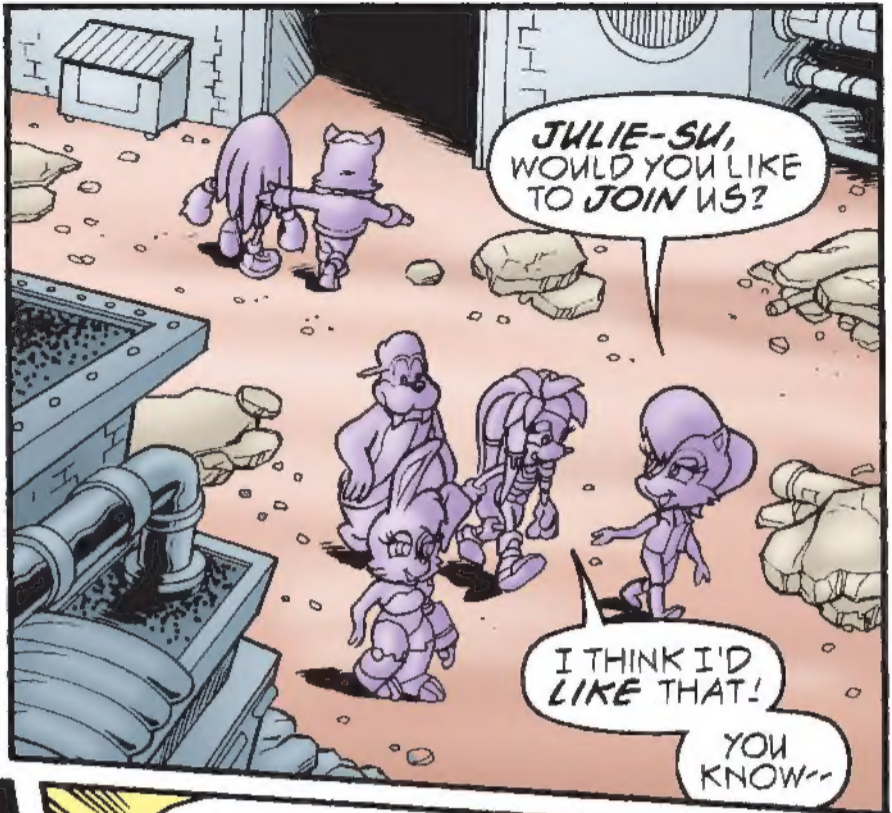
SOUNDS LIKE YOU AND SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN EITHER OF YOU REALIZE.

IN FACT--



I THINK THE **TWO** OF YOU SHOULD HAVE A REAL HEART-TO-HEART TALK!

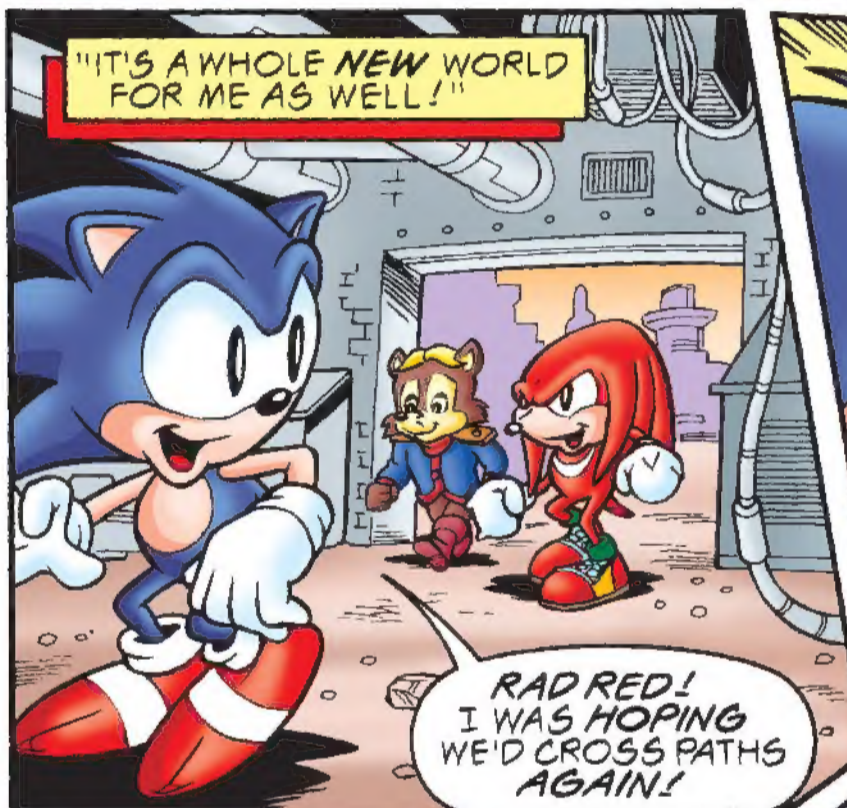
ANTOINE, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE **KNUCKLES** TO SEE **SONIC**!



JULIE-SU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO **JOIN** US?

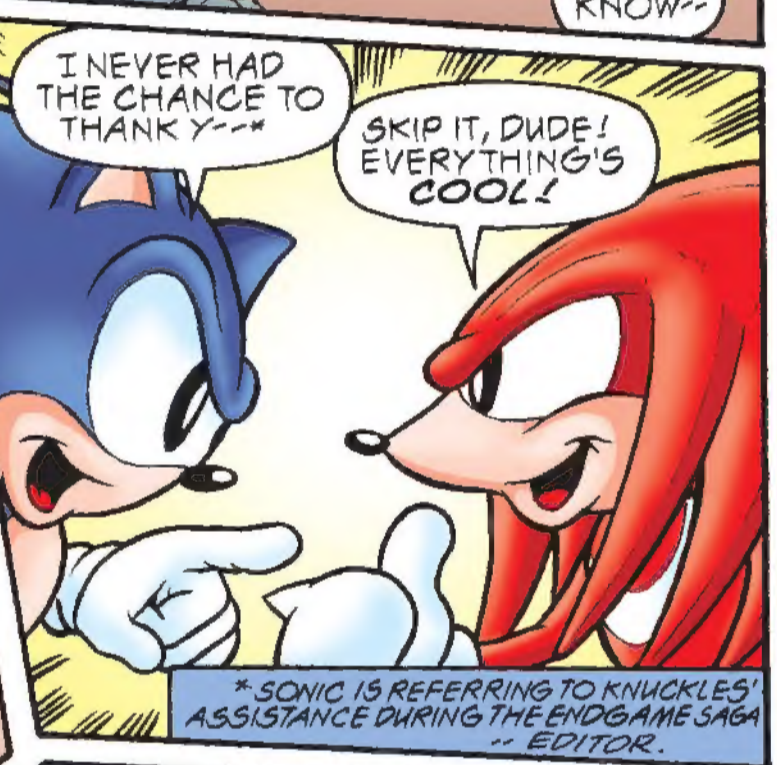
I THINK I'D LIKE THAT!

YOU KNOW--



"IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR ME AS WELL!"

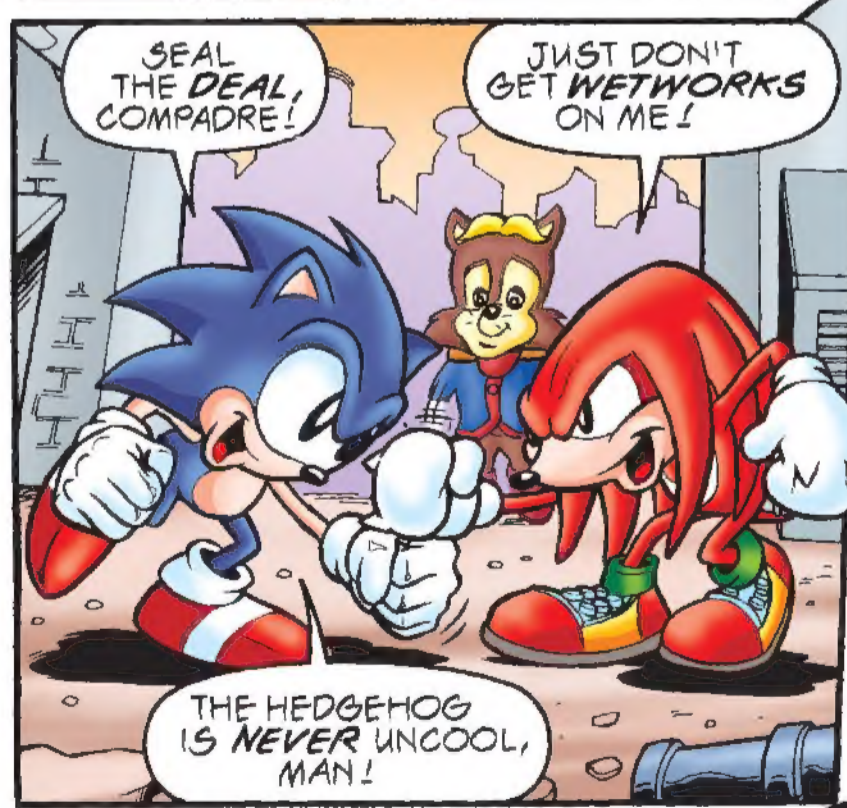
RAD RED! I WAS HOPING WE'D CROSS PATHS AGAIN!



I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO THANK Y---

SKIP IT, DUDE! EVERYTHING'S COOL!

* SONIC IS REFERRING TO **KNUCKLES'** ASSISTANCE DURING THE **ENDGAME SAGA** -- EDITOR.



SEAL THE **DEAL**, COMPADRE!

JUST DON'T GET **WETWORKS** ON ME!

THE **HEDGEHOG** IS NEVER UNCOOL, MAN!



MAURICE!

oh no!

WHO'S THAT **SCREAMING?** SOUNDS LIKE A **STRANGLER** TURKEY!



Oh, THERE YOU ARE, MAURICE!

MAURICE?! WHO--?

IS HE TALKING TO YOU?

HAHAHAHAHAHOHOHOHEEHEEHEEHAHAHA

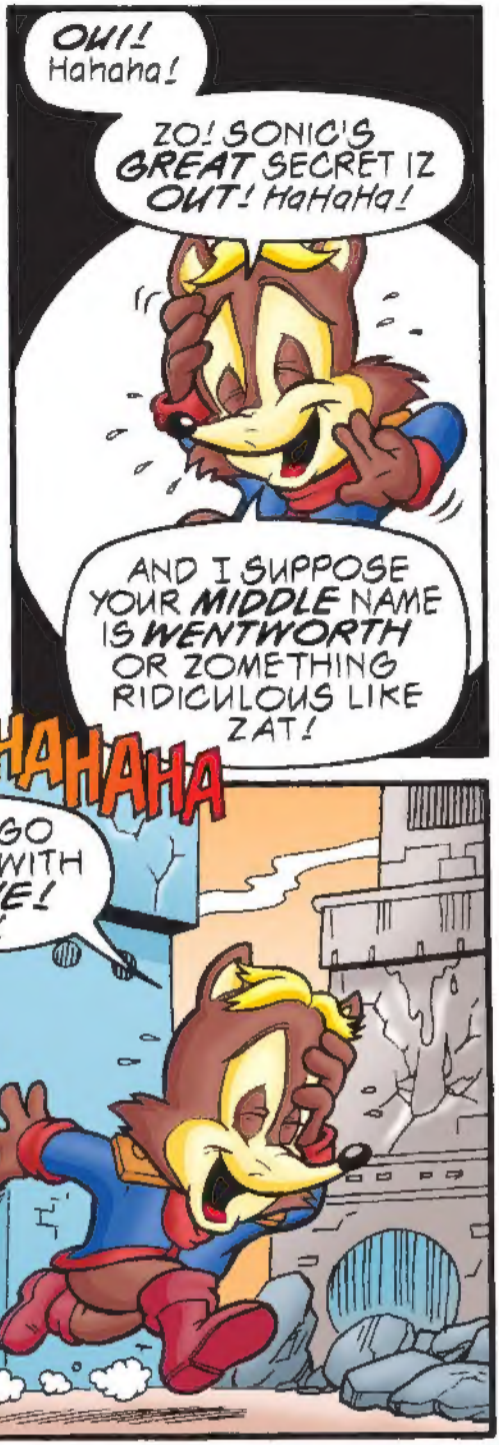
ACTUALLY, THAT IS HIS MIDDLE NAME, HIS FIRST NAME IS--

DAD! THE NAME IS SONIC-- PERIOD!

ZIS IZ TOO MUCH! HaHa!

I CAN'T STAND IT! HAHAHA!

*IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, SEE SONIC#0(L5)--EDITOR.



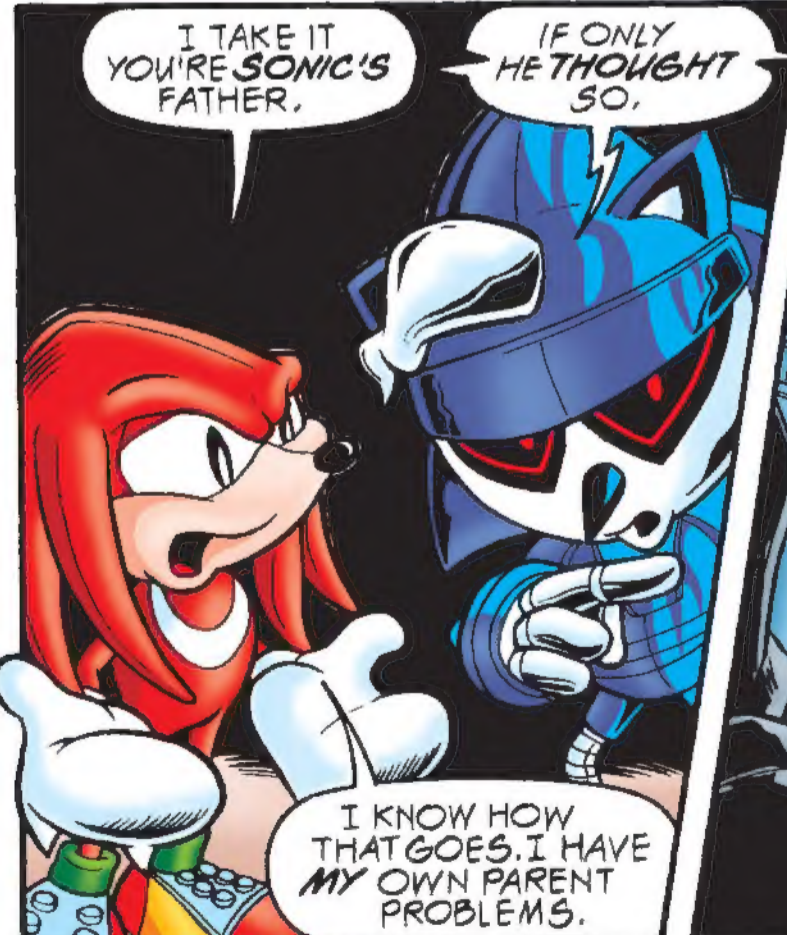
OHI! Hahaha!

ZO! SONIC'S GREAT SECRET IZ OUT! HaHaHa!

AND I SUPPOSE YOUR MIDDLE NAME IS WENTWORTH OR ZOMETHING RIDICULOUS LIKE ZAT!

I HAVE TO GO SHARE ZIS WITH EVERYONE! HaHaHa!

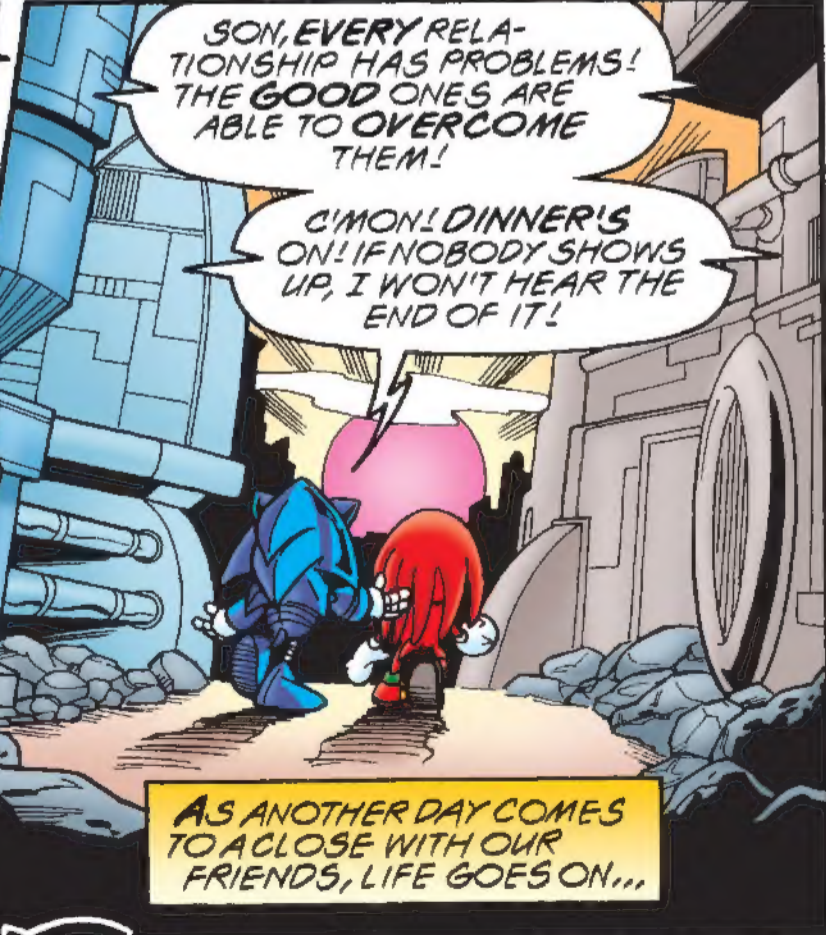
Oh, NO YOU DON'T, 'TWAN!



I TAKE IT YOU'RE SONIC'S FATHER.

IF ONLY HE THOUGHT SO.

I KNOW HOW THAT GOES. I HAVE MY OWN PARENT PROBLEMS.



SON, EVERY RELATIONSHIP HAS PROBLEMS! THE GOOD ONES ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME THEM!

C'MON! DINNER'S ON! IF NOBODY SHOWS UP, I WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT!

AS ANOTHER DAY COMES TO A CLOSE WITH OUR FRIENDS, LIFE GOES ON...

THE DAWN OF
A NEW DAY!

AND IN THE WAKE OF THE
NEFARIOUS IVO ROBOTNIK'S
DEFEAT BY THE KNOTHOLE
VILLAGE FREEDOM FIGHTERS,

--LIFE HAS UNDERGONE
SOME DRAMATIC CHANGES
FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED
GROUP!

AND FOR TWO OF THEM
IN PARTICULAR, IT SEEMS
THAT THE CHANGES HAVE
ONLY BEGUN...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG IN SOUNDS OF SILENCE Part 1

SCRIPT/COLORIST: KARL BOLLERS PENCILLING: SAM MAXWELL INKING: PAM EKLUND LETTERING: JEFF ROWELL EDITOR: J. REDDY GABRIEL MNG. EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR IN CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER



WOW, SONIC! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT BUILDING OVER THERE? IT'S DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S LABORATORY!

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY DIABOLICAL SCHEMES WERE COOKED UP IN THAT MOST COMPLEX OF COMPLEXES...



...AND HOW MANY MORE FIENDISH DEVICES LIE WITHIN ITS WALLS?

AND JUST THINK, SALLY! IT'S ALL YOURS FOR THE AMAZINGLY LOW PRICE OF NOTHING! YOU MAY NOT BE KING, BUT IT'S SURE GOTTA BE A BLAST BEING PRINCESS!

THIS IS NO JOKE, SONIC! I'M SERIOUS OVER HERE!

I MEAN, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SUDDENLY YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DEVICE WITH THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF THE **ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR**?



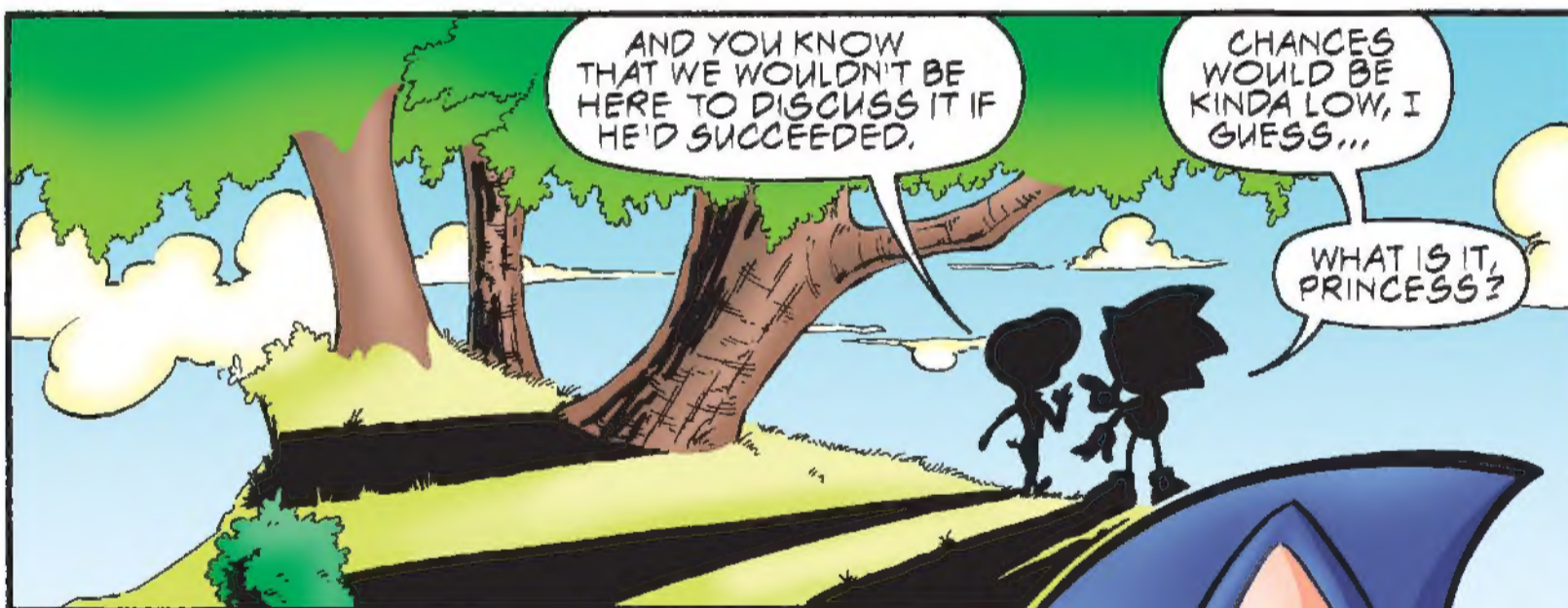
Whoah! ROBOTNIK NEARLY WIPED OUT ALL OF CREATION WITH THAT IMPORTED WEAPON OF HIS!



AND YOU KNOW THAT WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TO DISCUSS IT IF HE'D SUCCEEDED.

CHANCES WOULD BE KINDA LOW, I GUESS...

WHAT IS IT, PRINCESS?



NOTHING, SONIC. WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR THE KINGDOM, I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH MY DUMB PROBLEMS...

NO MATTER HOW MIXED UP, JUMBLED, AND DOWN-RIGHT CONFUSING YOUR PROBLEMS ARE, SALLY, THEY ARE NOT--REPEAT **NOT DUMB!**





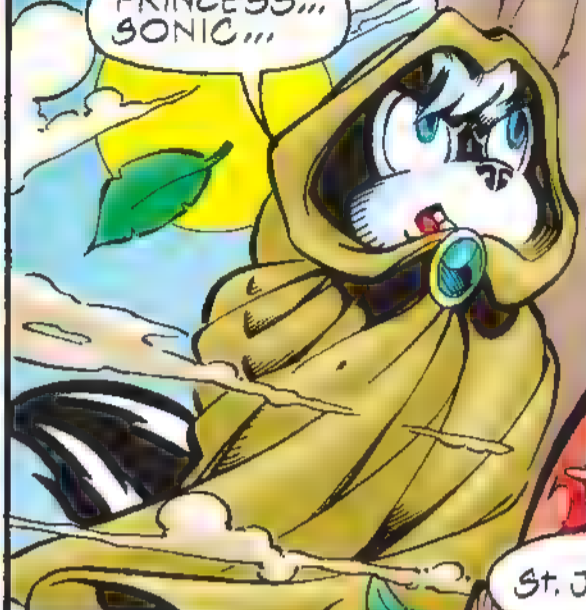
AND MY FATHER!
THE KING! WILL WE EVER
BE ABLE TO REVERSE
THE PROCESS THAT
HAS TURNED HIM INTO
CRYSTAL?

WE MAY BE
CLOSER THAN WE
WERE A FEW DAYS
AGO.



GEOFFREY!

PRINCESS...
SONIC...



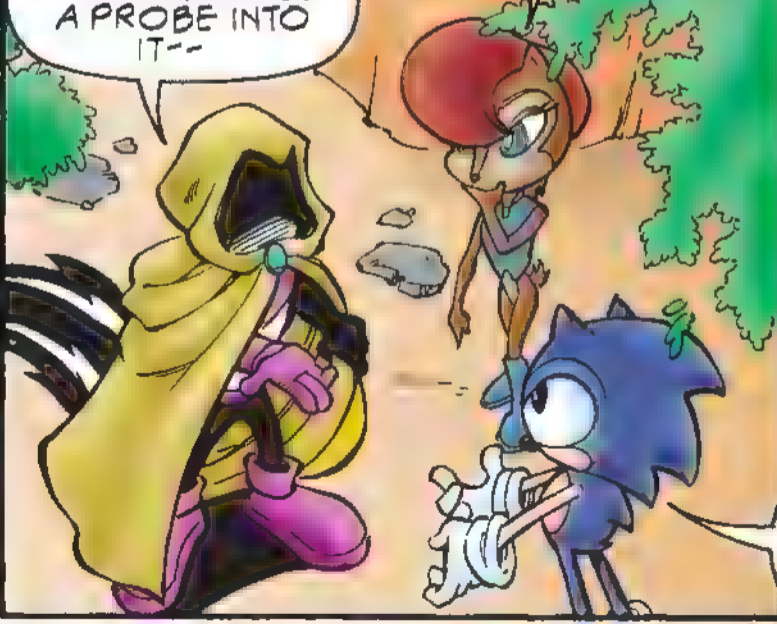
St. JOHN.

EVEN NOW, ROTOR,
SIR CHARLES, AND DOCTOR
QUACK ARE INVESTIGATING
THE PORTAL TO THE SO-
CALLED ZONE OF SILENCE
WITHIN JULIAN'S LAB.



THE DREAD ZONE OF
SILENCE... WHERE ROBOTNIK
BANISHED MY FATHER
YEARS AGO.

ONCE THEY
HAVE LAUNCHED
A PROBE INTO
IT--



WAITAMINNIT!
PROBEZ IS THAT
SUCH A SAFE IDEA?
I MEAN--

WHAT'S
THE MATTER
WITH IT--?





LIKE I WAS SAYING BEFORE I WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED, "PROBEZ IS THAT SUCH A SAFE IDEA? I MEAN THE ZONE IS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF CREEPY VILLIANS AFTER ALL!"

YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT, HEDGEHOG! NO REASON TO GET SNIPPY!

THEY'VE KNOCKED THE OTHERS UNCONSCIOUS -- WHO IN THE WORLD ARE THEY?

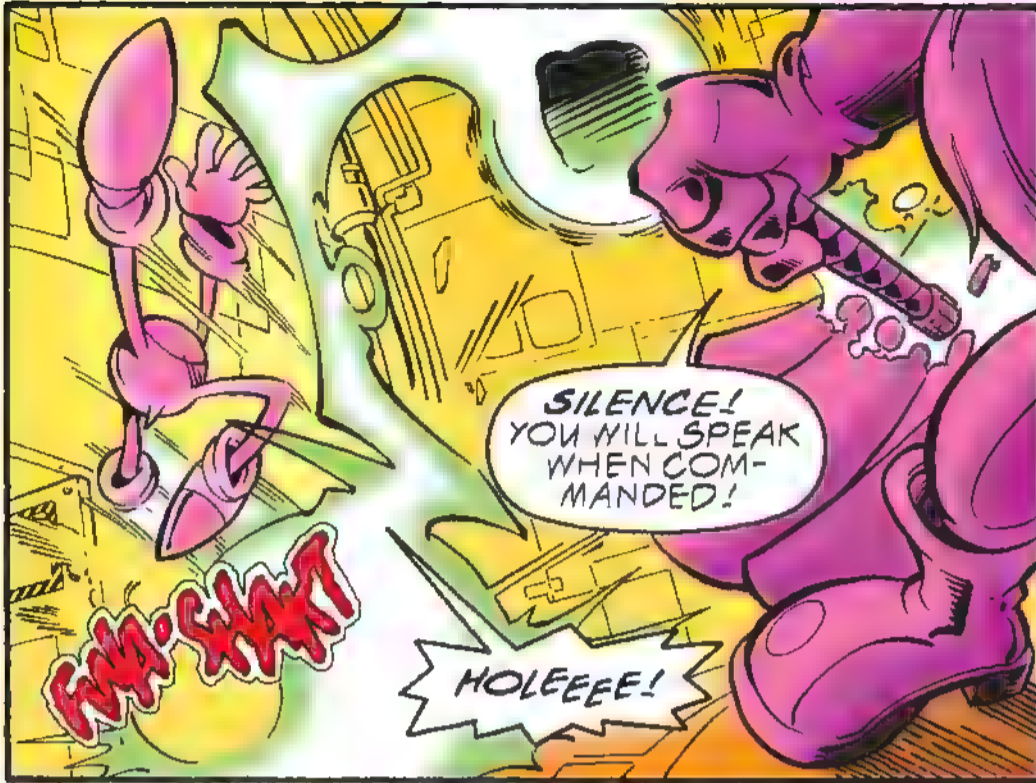


WHO IN THE WORLD INDEED! YOU, MY DEAR, ARE A LITTLE TALLER, A BIT WISER... PRINCESS SALLY, ISN'T IT?

I'M SURPRISED YOU DO NOT REMEMBER -- IXIS NAHGUS, SORCEROR SAVANT!



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MR. IXIS WHOGUS SORCEROUS WHATGUS OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, BUT--

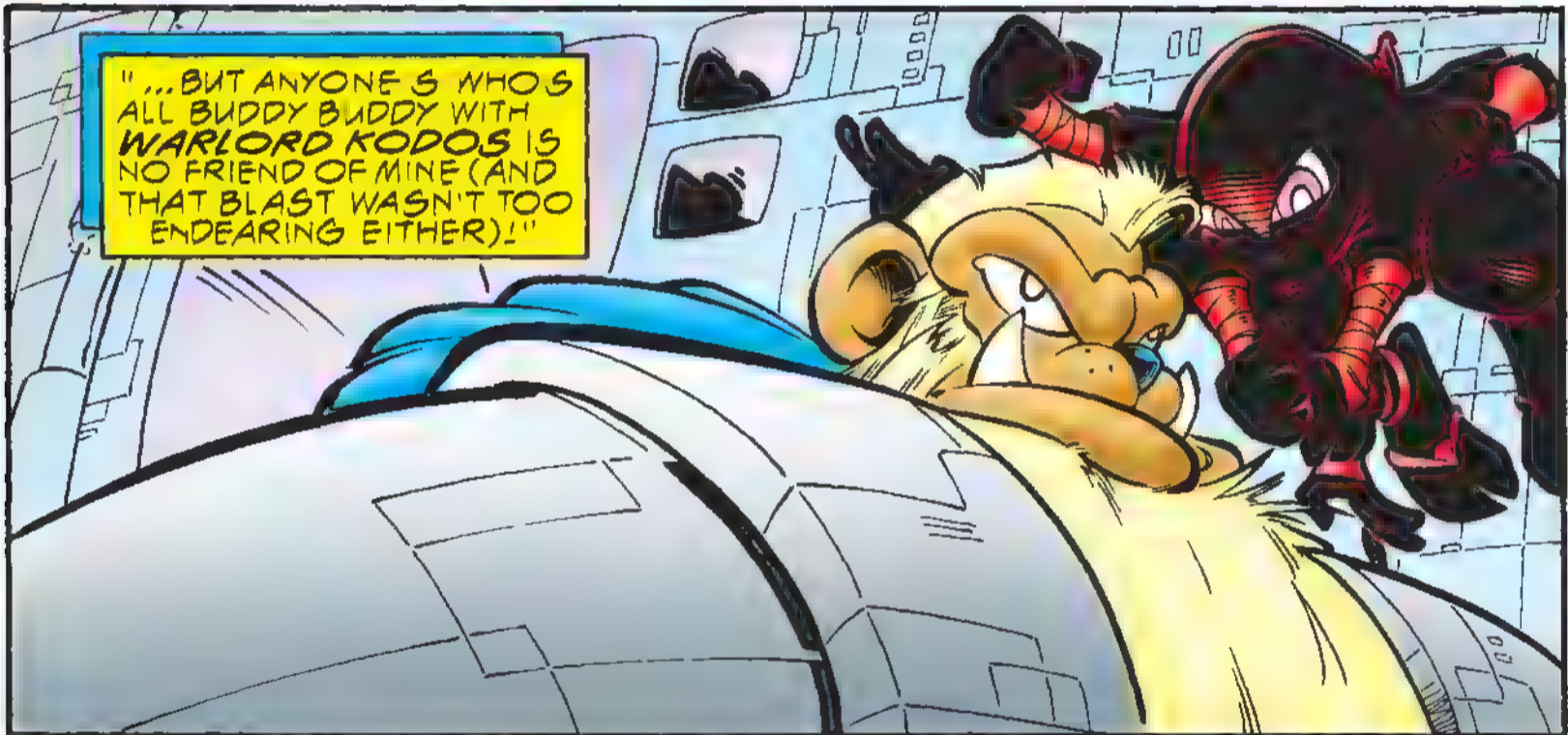


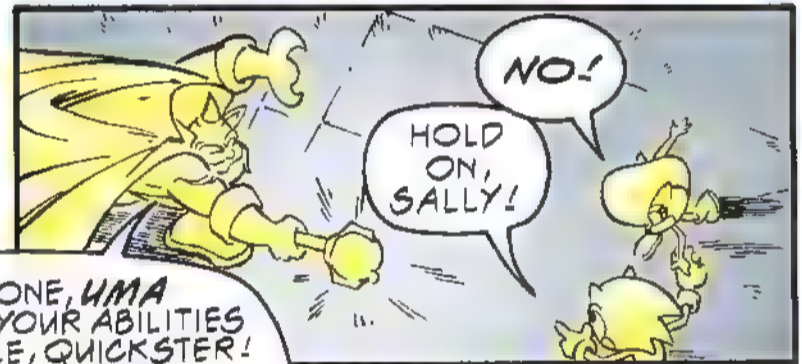
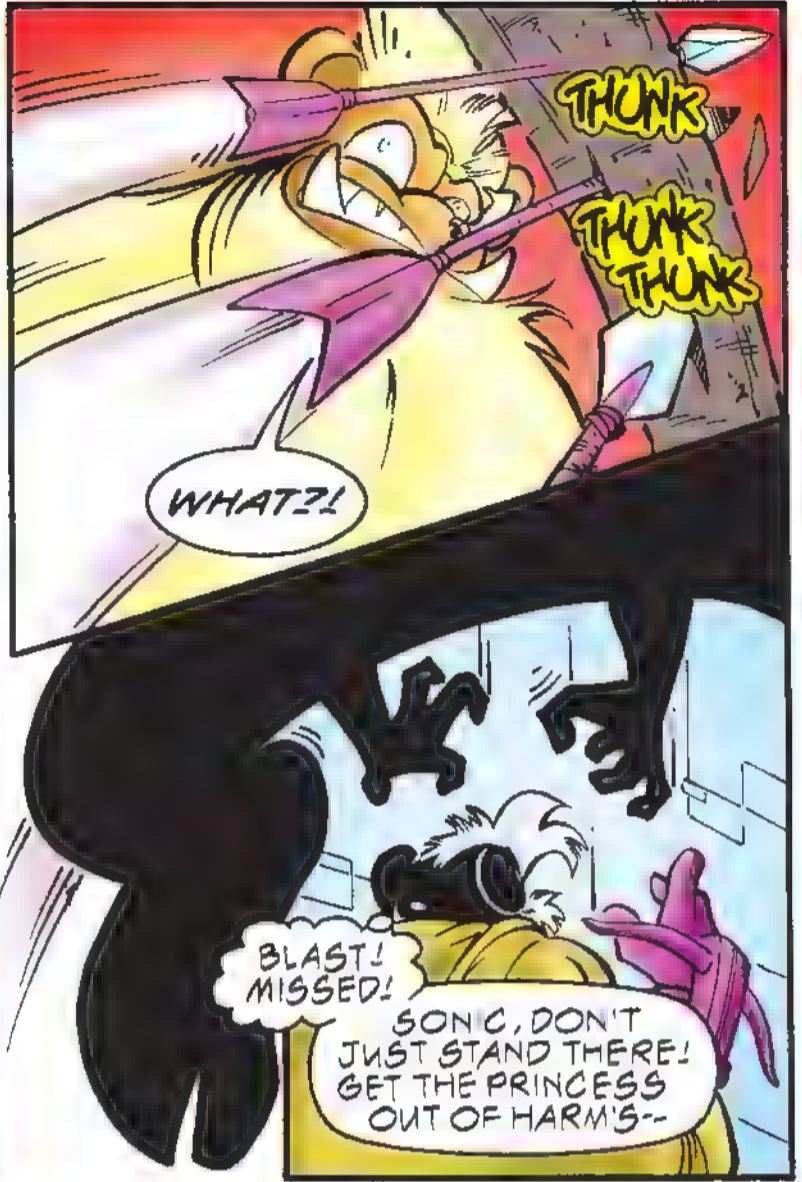
SILENCE!
YOU WILL SPEAK
WHEN COM-
MANDED!

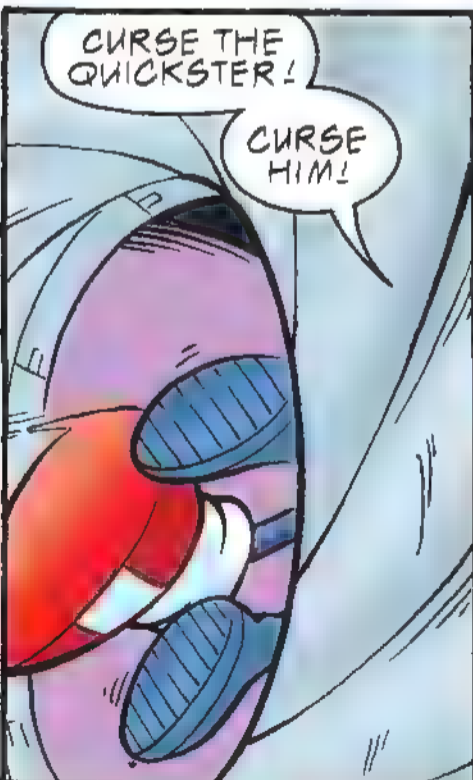
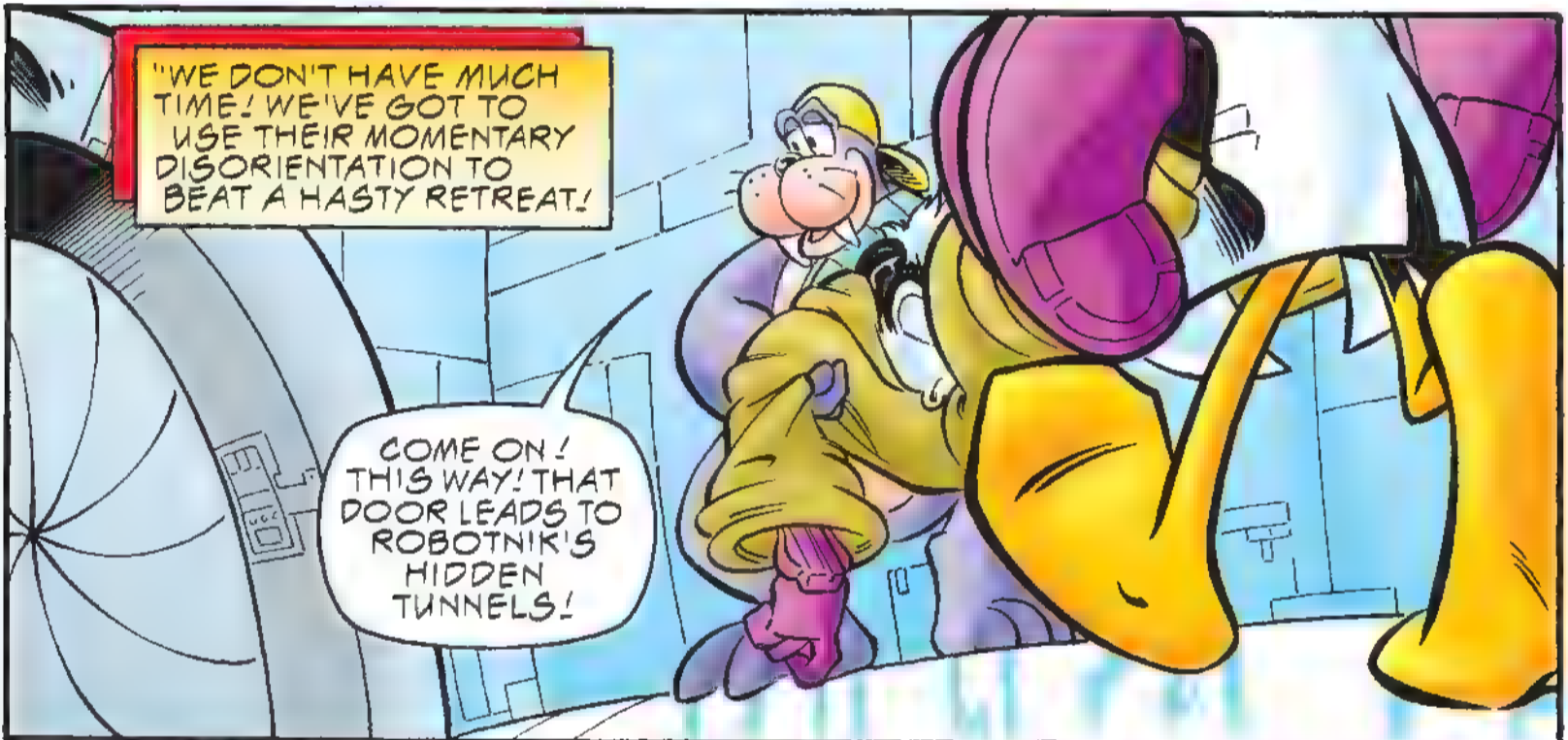
HOLEEE!



LIKE I WAS SAYING
BEFORE I WAS RUDELY
INTERRUPTED, "I DON'T
KNOW WHO YOU ARE..."







SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

IN SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Part 3

CASTLE ACORN,
FORMERLY ROBOTNIK'S
HEADQUARTERS...

...NO IDEA
THAT LAUNCHING
THE PROBE WOULD
RELEASE THAT
DEADLY TRIO!

THEIR LEADER,
IXIS NAUGUS, HAS A
WAND THAT CAN
TURN OBJECTS INTO
CRYSTAL, FATHER
HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE?

AND WHY DIDN'T
IXIS, KODOS, AND UMA
FALL PREY TO THE EFFECTS
OF THE ZONE AS YOU DID
WHEN EXPOSED TO MOBIUS'
ATMOSPHERE, SIRE?

IXIS NAUGUS...
A NAME... I THOUGHT
...NEVER TO HEAR...
AGAIN...

WELL, WE'RE GONNA HEAR IT
A LOT MORE IF WE DON'T STOP
HIM FROM DECLARING HIM-
SELF RIGHTFUL RULER OF
MOBOTROPOLIS!

BUT, LAD, HE IS
...THE RIGHTFUL RULER
OF... MOBOTROPOLIS!

HUH?!

I THINK OUR LIEGE IS SUFFERING FROM A MOMENTARY LAPSE OF REASON!

NO, DOCTOR... I ASSURE YOU... MY REASONING IS FAR SOUNDER... THAN IT HAS BEEN... FOR SOME TIME...



DAD?

I'M FINE, PRINCESS. NEVER THOUGHT THAT... IXIS WOULD ESCAPE... ZONE OF SILENCE.

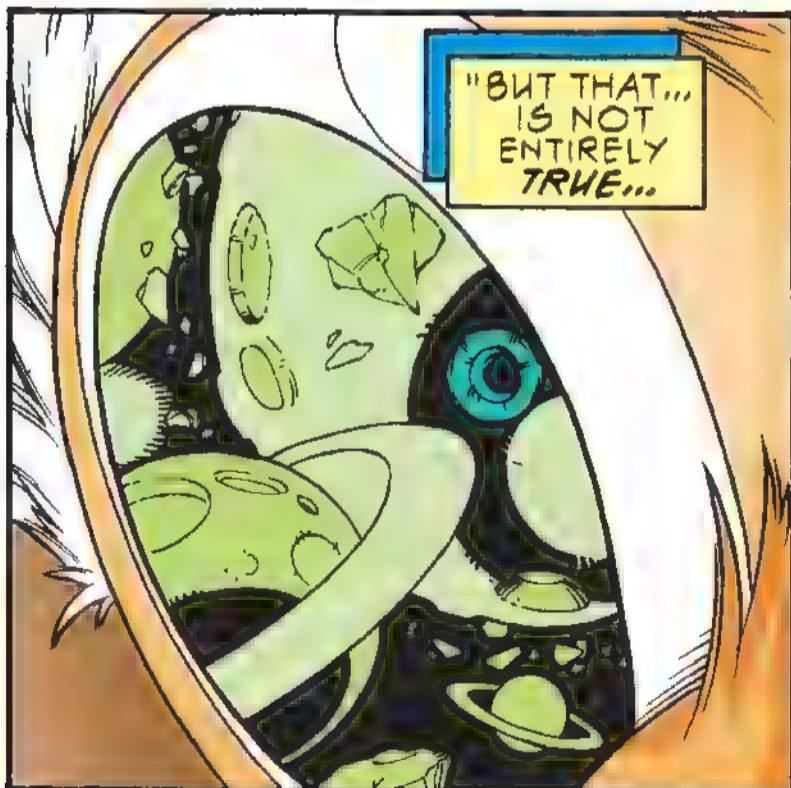
NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EITHER... FOR THAT MATTER.



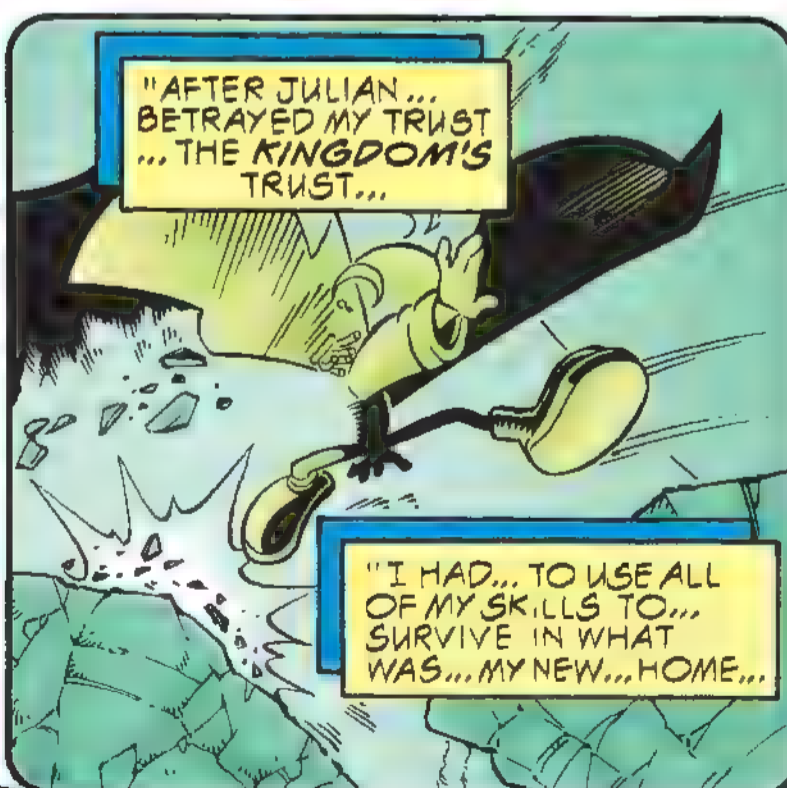
YOU ALL BELIEVED... MY CRYSTALIZATION... TO BE A BY-PRODUCT OF... PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO ITS... HARSH ENVIRONMENT.



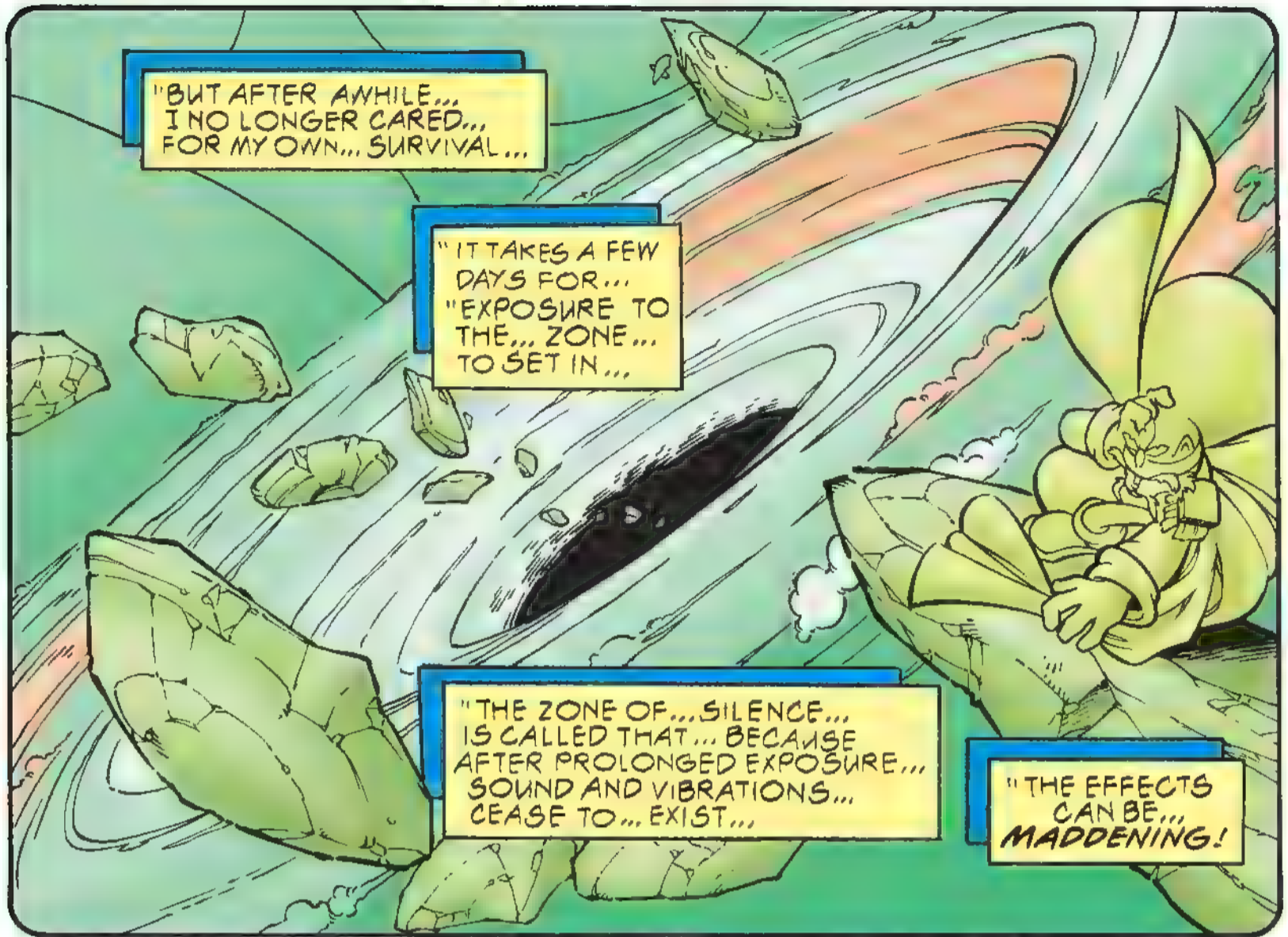
"BUT THAT... IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE..."



"AFTER JULIAN... BETRAYED MY TRUST... THE KINGDOM'S TRUST..."



"I HAD... TO USE ALL OF MY SKILLS TO... SURVIVE IN WHAT WAS... MY NEW... HOME..."

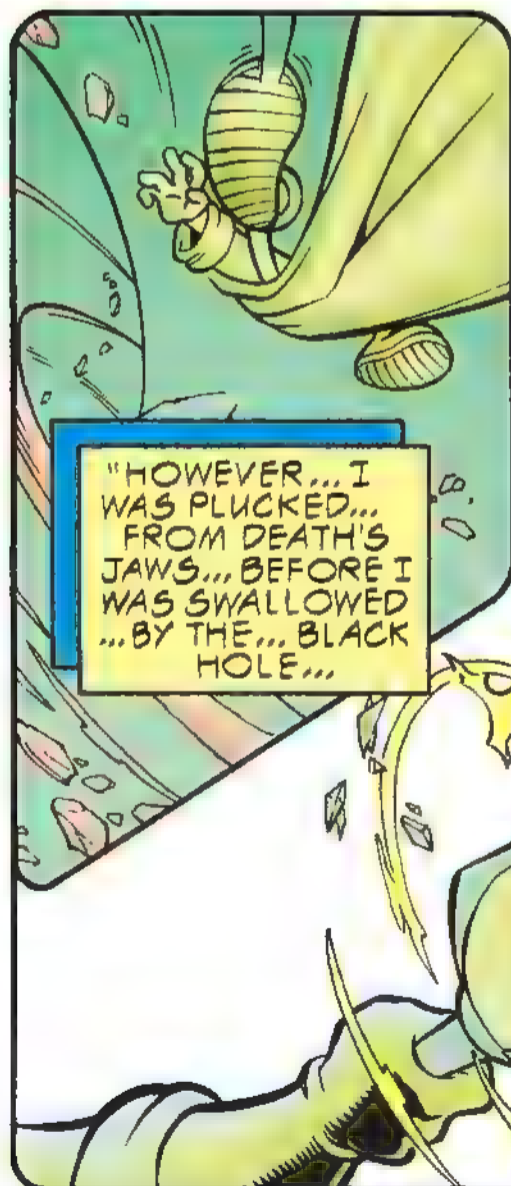


"BUT AFTER AWHILE... I NO LONGER CARE... FOR MY OWN... SURVIVAL..."

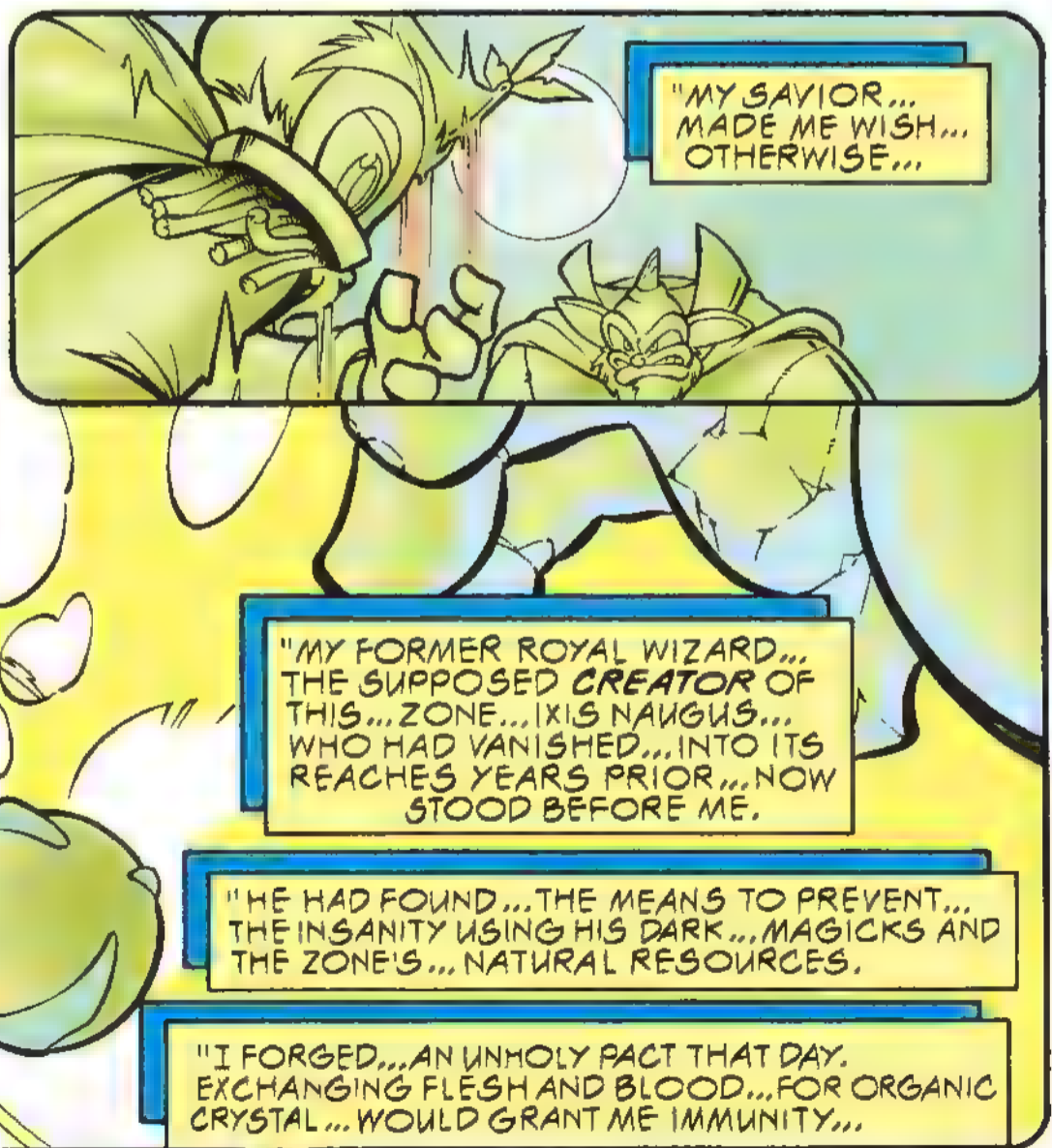
"IT TAKES A FEW DAYS FOR... 'EXPOSURE TO THE... ZONE... TO SET IN..."

"THE ZONE OF... SILENCE... IS CALLED THAT... BECAUSE AFTER PROLONGED EXPOSURE... SOUND AND VIBRATIONS... CEASE TO... EXIST..."

"THE EFFECTS CAN BE... **MADDENING!**"



"HOWEVER... I WAS PLUCKED... FROM DEATH'S JAWS... BEFORE I WAS SWALLOWED... BY THE... BLACK HOLE..."

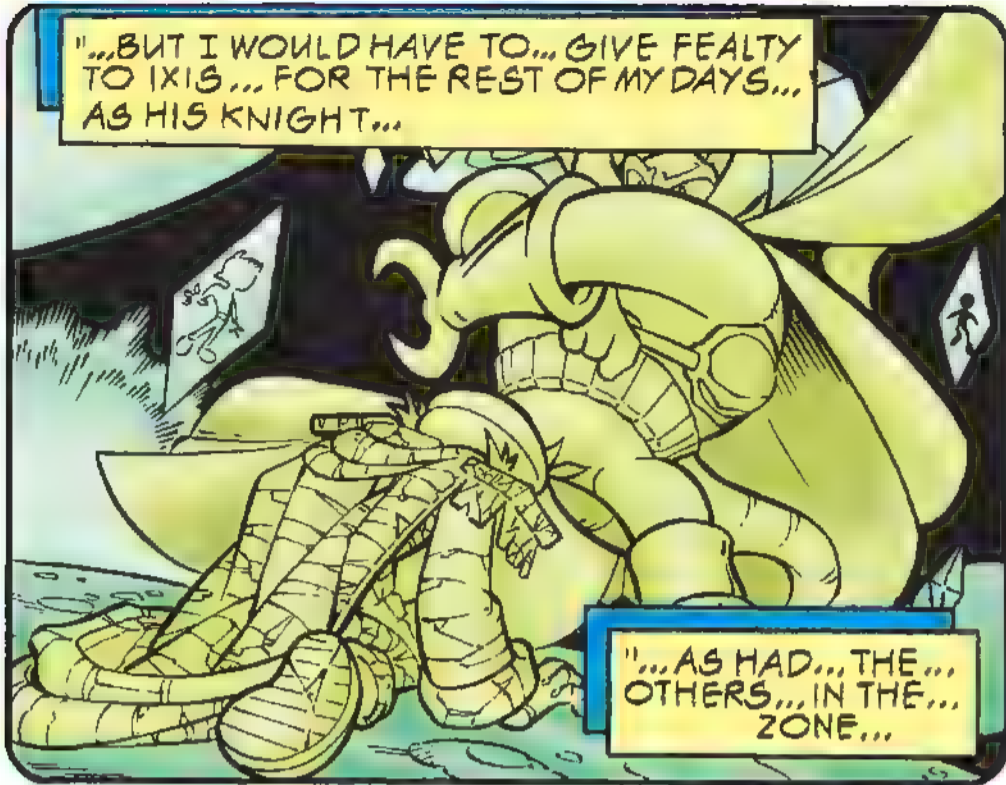


"MY SAVIOR... MADE ME WISH... OTHERWISE..."

"MY FORMER ROYAL WIZARD... THE SUPPOSED **CREATOR** OF THIS... ZONE... IXIS NAUGUS... WHO HAD VANISHED... INTO ITS REACHES YEARS PRIOR... NOW STOOD BEFORE ME."

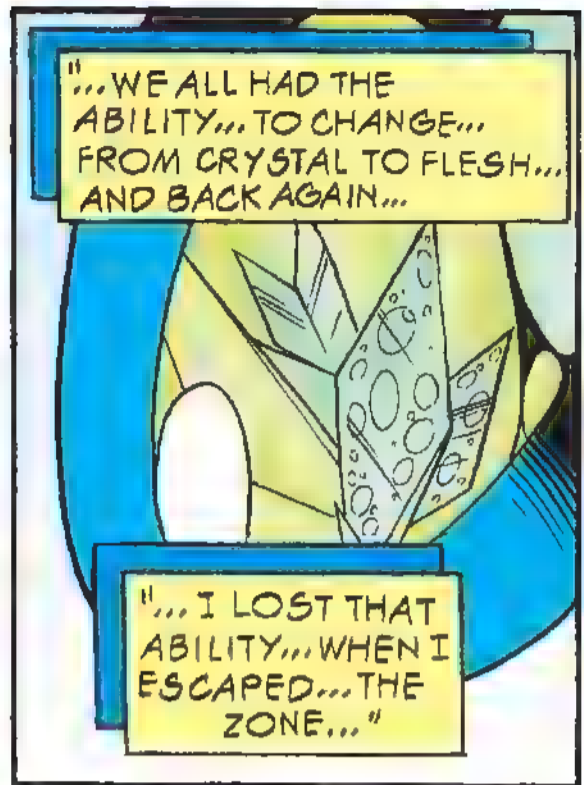
"HE HAD FOUND... THE MEANS TO PREVENT... THE INSANITY USING HIS DARK... **MAGICKS** AND THE ZONE'S... NATURAL RESOURCES."

"I FORGED... AN UNHOLY PACT THAT DAY. EXCHANGING FLESH AND BLOOD... FOR ORGANIC CRYSTAL... WOULD GRANT ME IMMUNITY..."



"...BUT I WOULD HAVE TO... GIVE FEALTY TO IXIS... FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS... AS HIS KNIGHT..."

"...AS HAD... THE... OTHERS... IN THE... ZONE..."



"...WE ALL HAD THE ABILITY... TO CHANGE... FROM CRYSTAL TO FLESH... AND BACK AGAIN..."

"...I LOST THAT ABILITY... WHEN I ESCAPED... THE ZONE..."



DAD!
MY LIEGE!

HE'LL BE ALRIGHT, KIDS! HE JUST TAXED HIS ENDURANCE IN THE TELLING OF THAT SORDID TALE!

UGH...



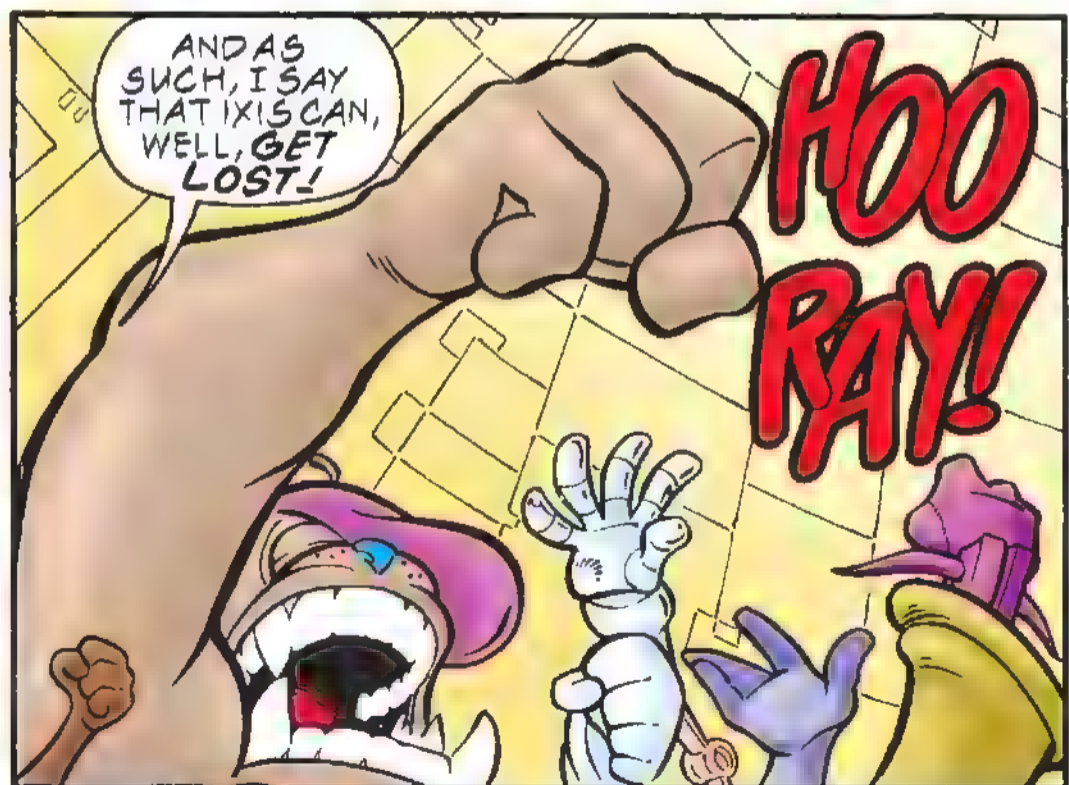
IF WHAT THE KING SAID IS TRUE... IF HE DID INDEED SWEAR BLIND ALLEGIANCE TO THE WIZARD...

YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT IXIS IS KING?!



PRINCESS?

MY FATHER IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS REGARDING THE KINGDOM, THAT'S WHY I WAS APPOINTED ACTING RULER!



AND AS SUCH, I SAY THAT IXIS CAN, WELL, GET LOST!

HOO RAY!

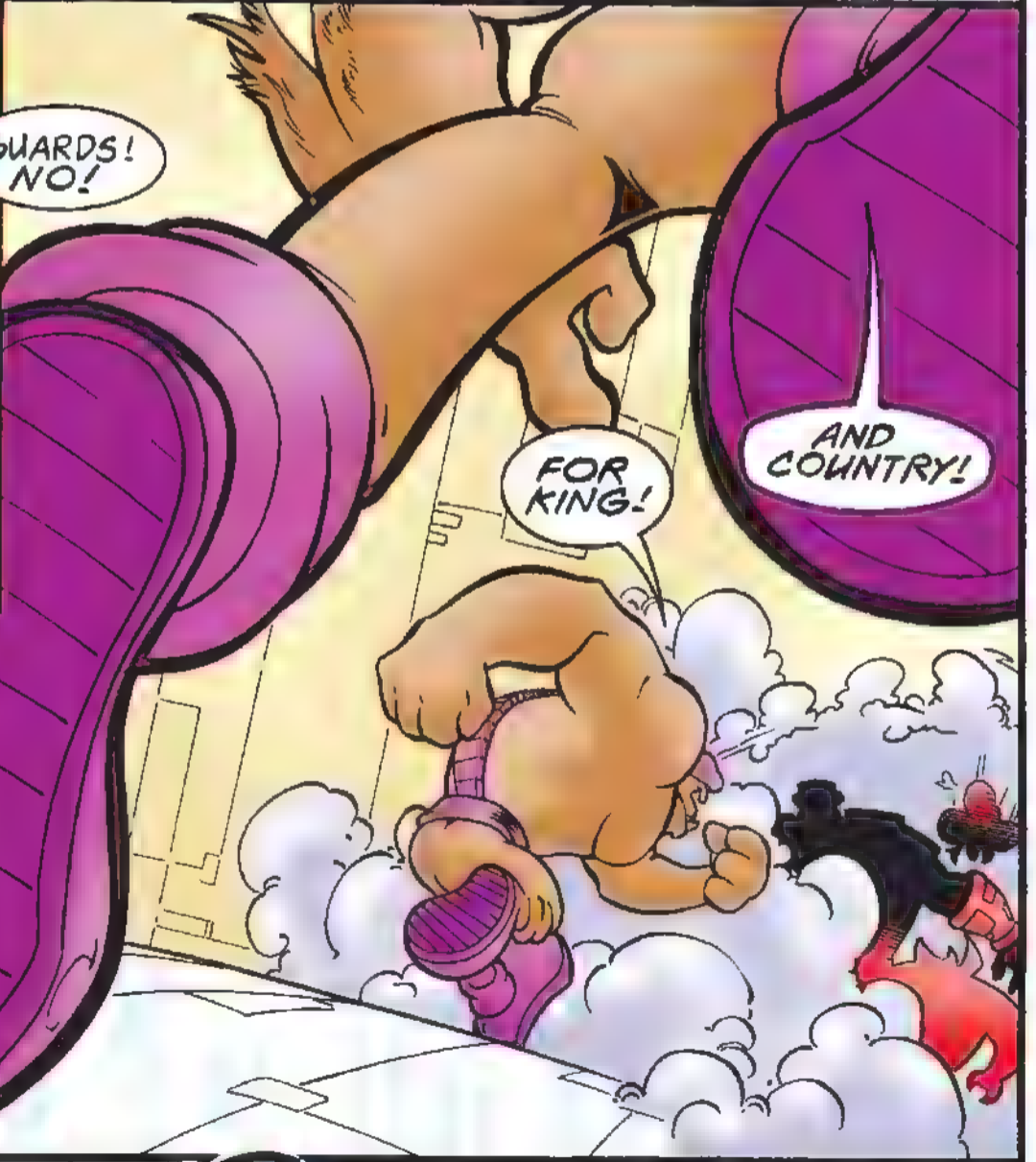
SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Part 4



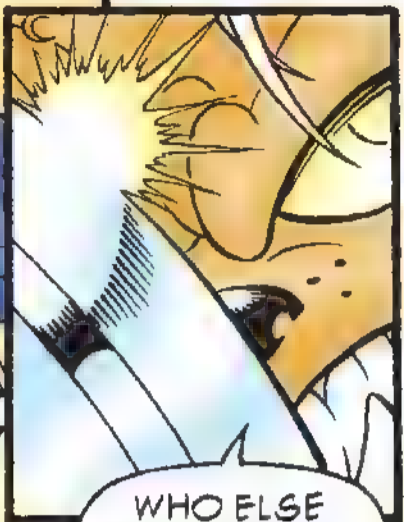
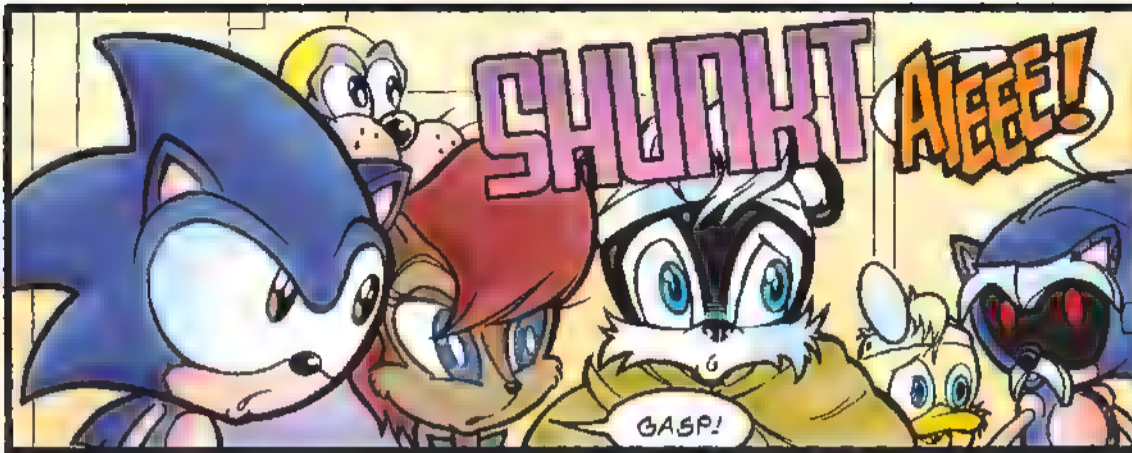
LET ME
TAKE A WILD
GUESS...

GUARDS!
NO!



FOR
KING!

AND
COUNTRY!



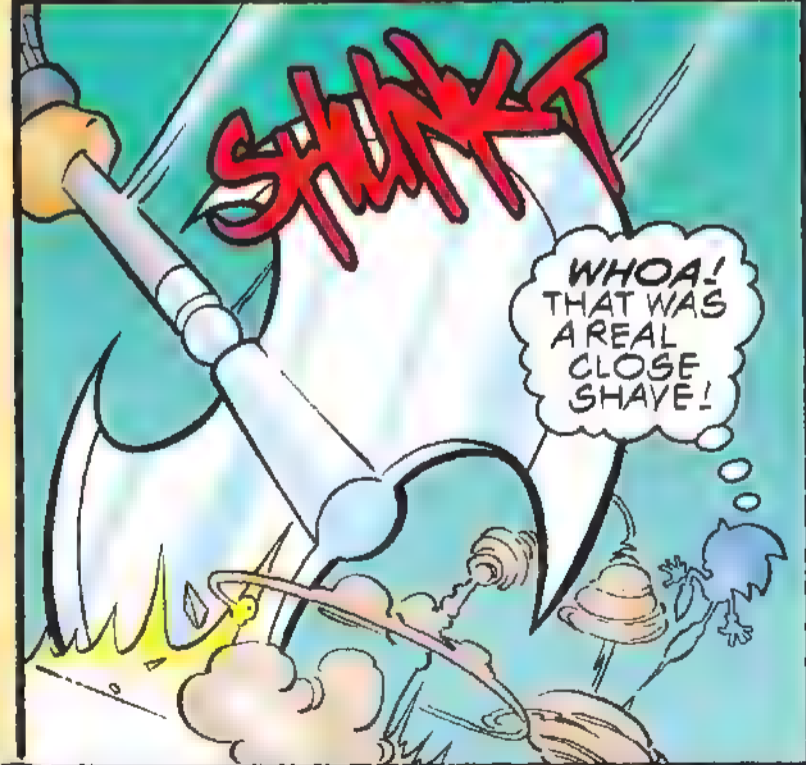
WHO ELSE WOULD BATTLE KODOS FACE TO FACE?

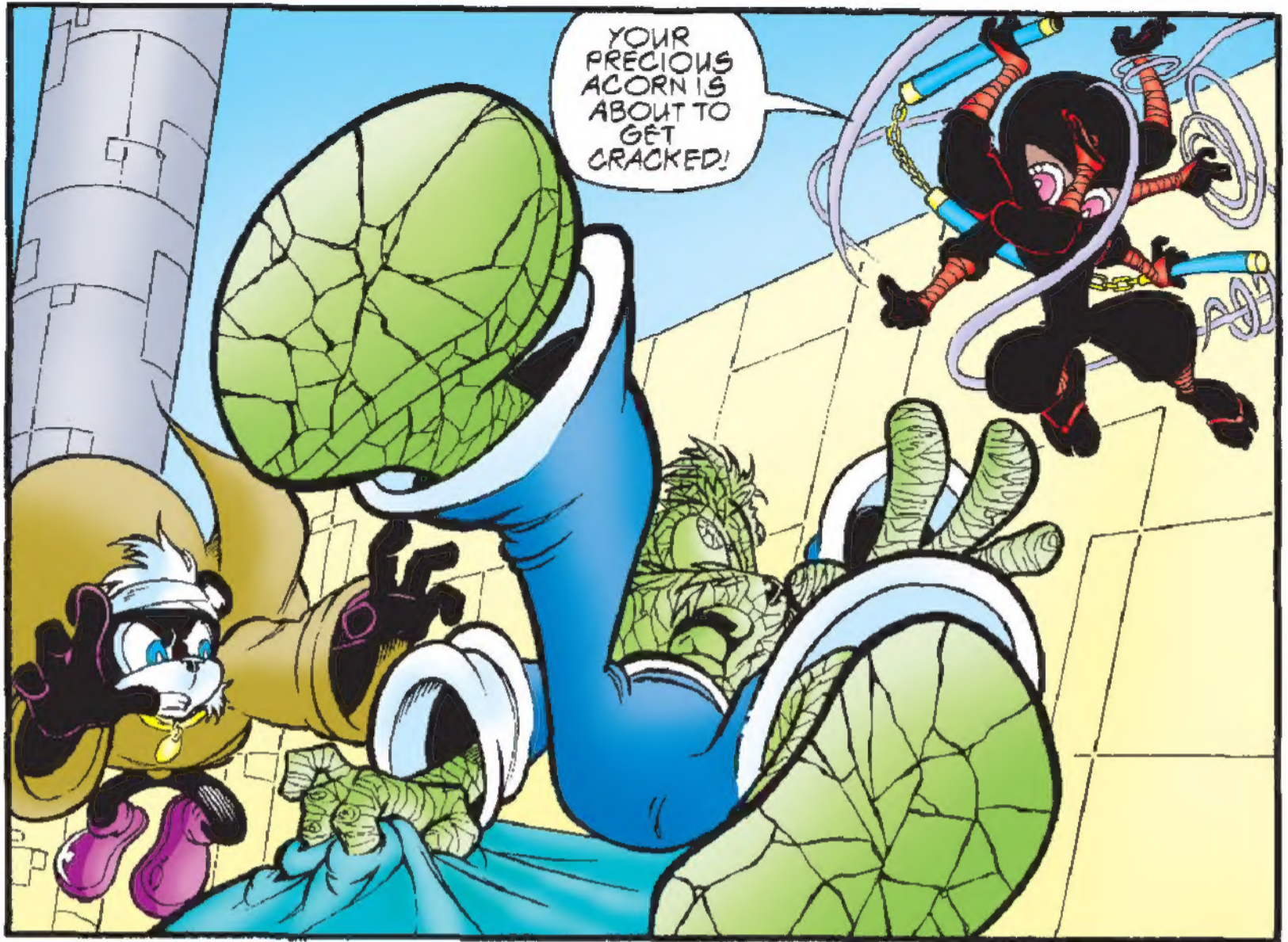
ME!

BUT DO WE HAVE TO DO IT FACE TO FACE? YOU'RE KINDA UGLY!

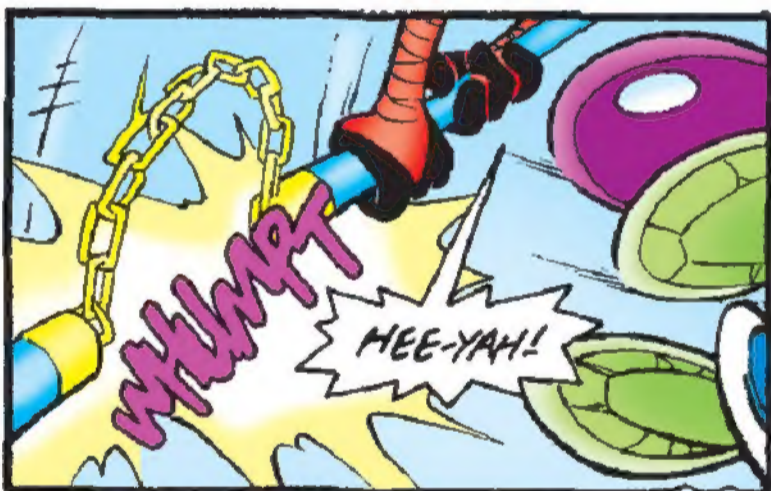


WE MUST GET KING ACORN TO SAFETY!



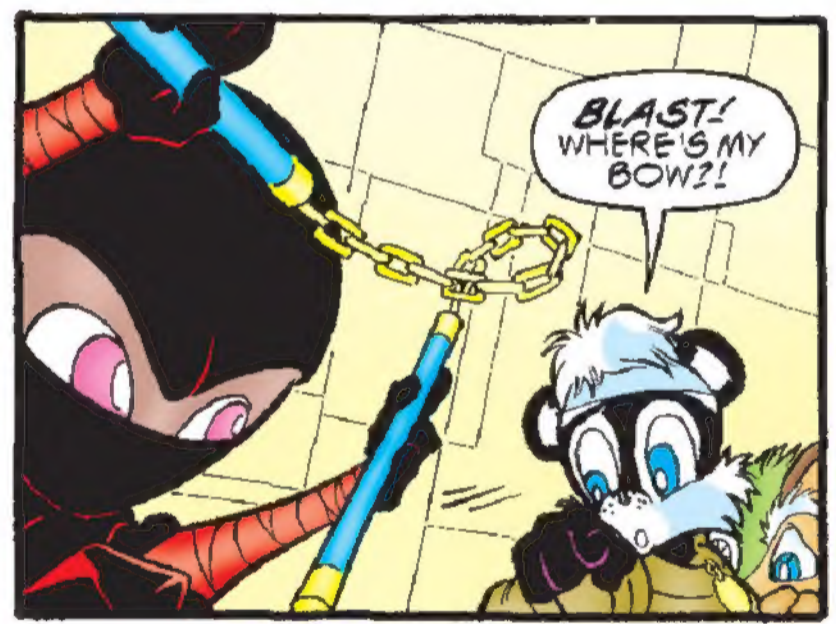


YOUR PRECIOUS ACORN IS ABOUT TO GET CRACKED!

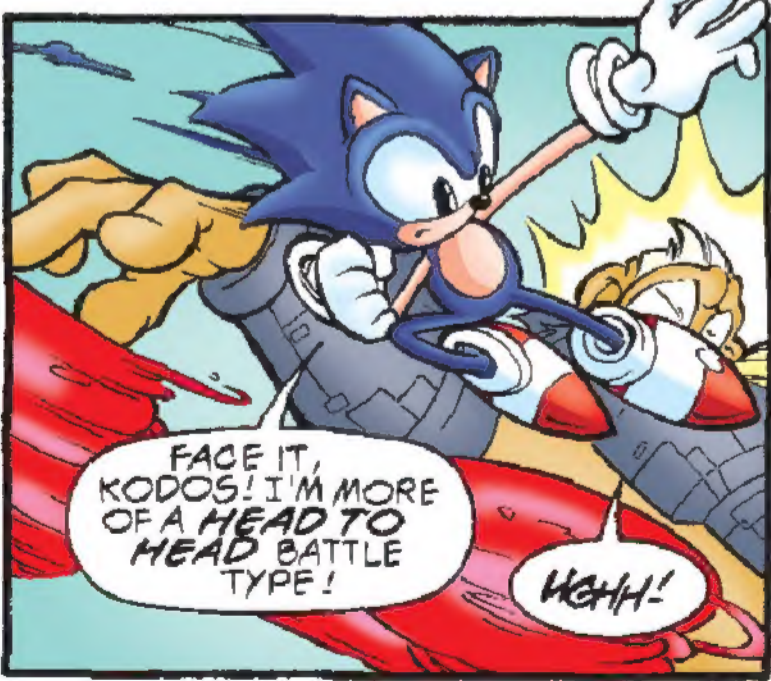


SHLUP!

HEE-YAH!

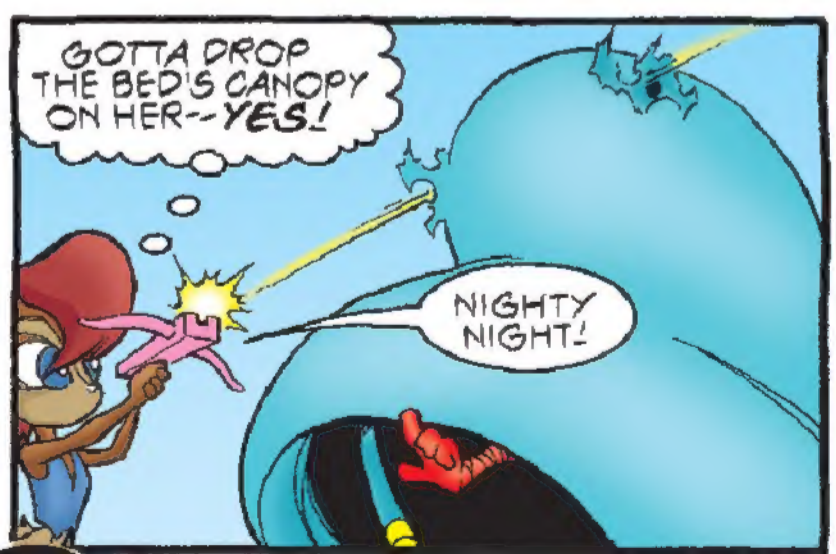


BLAST! WHERE'S MY BOW?!



FACE IT, KODOS! I'M MORE OF A HEAD TO HEAD BATTLE TYPE!

WAAA!

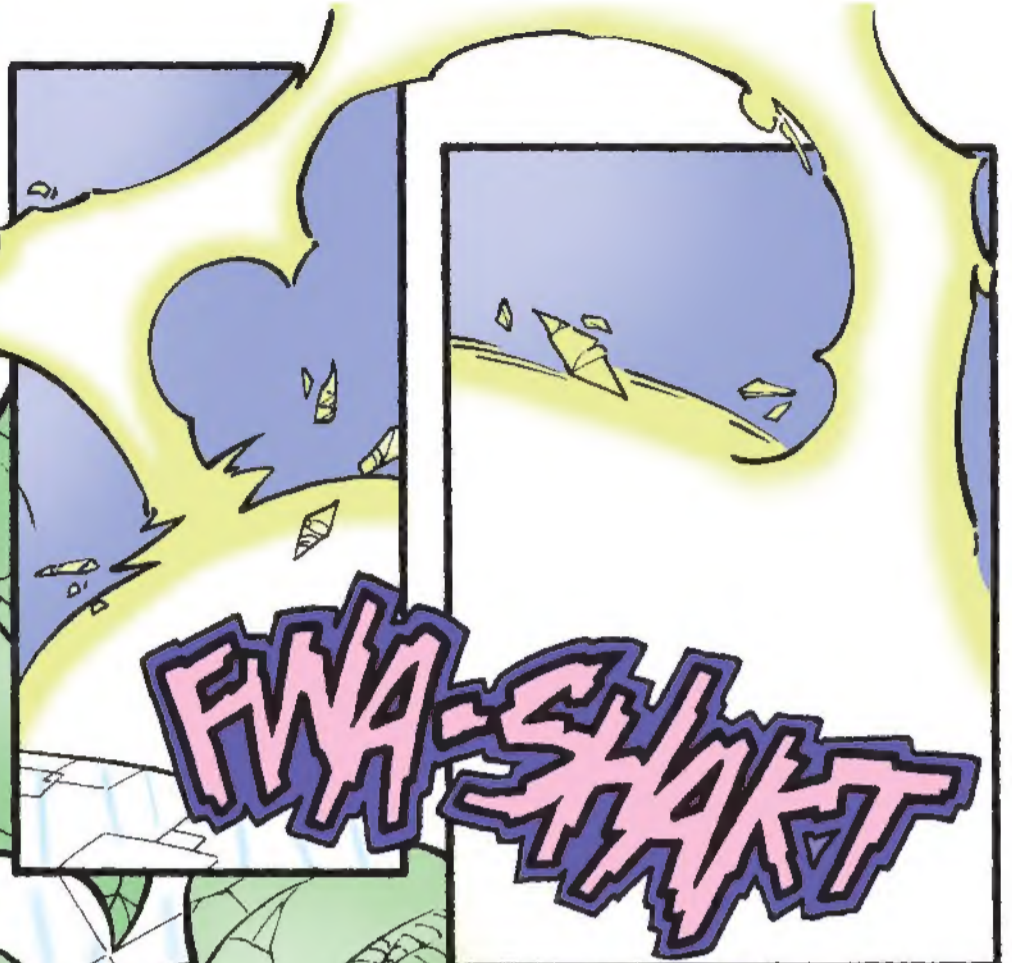


GOTTA DROP THE BED'S CANOPY ON HER--YES!

NIGHTY NIGHT!



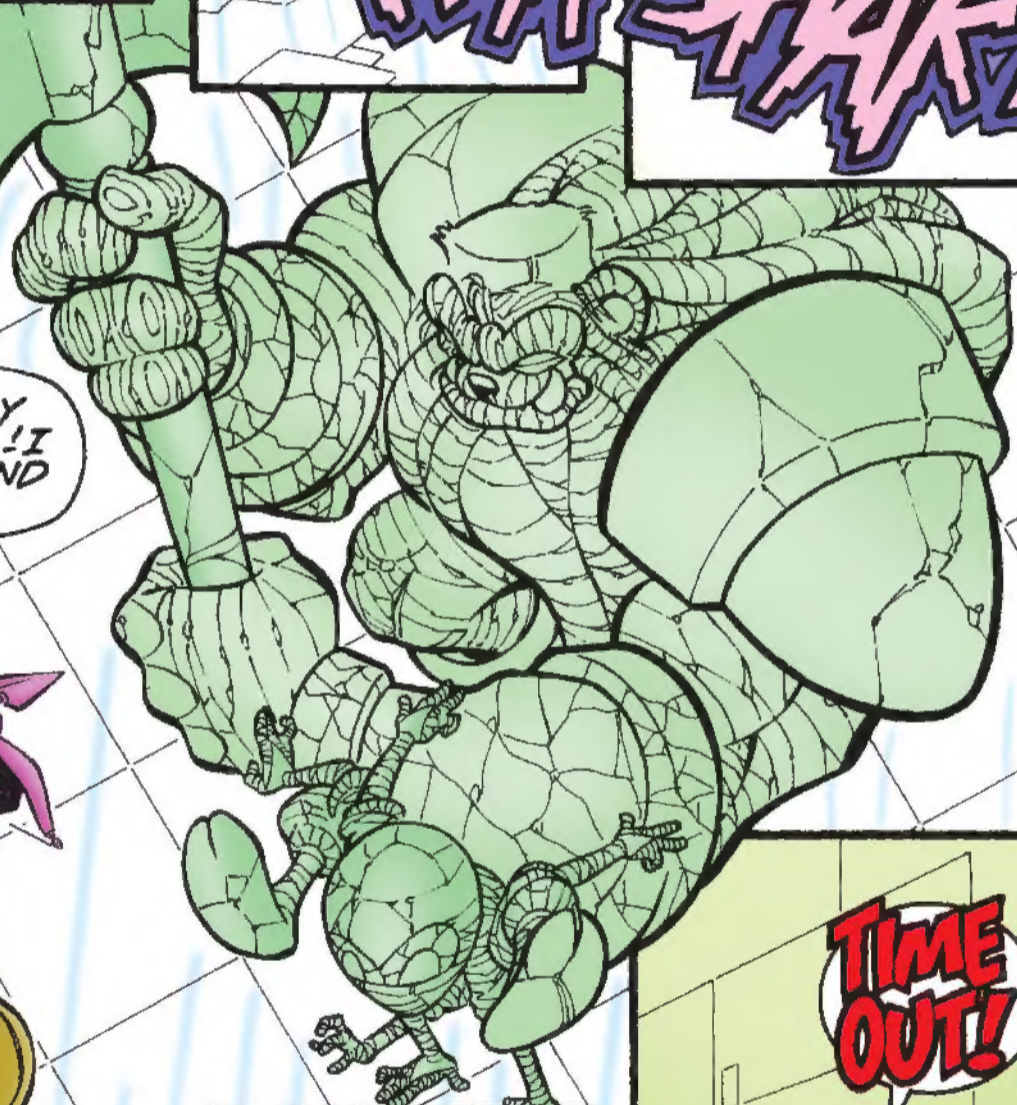
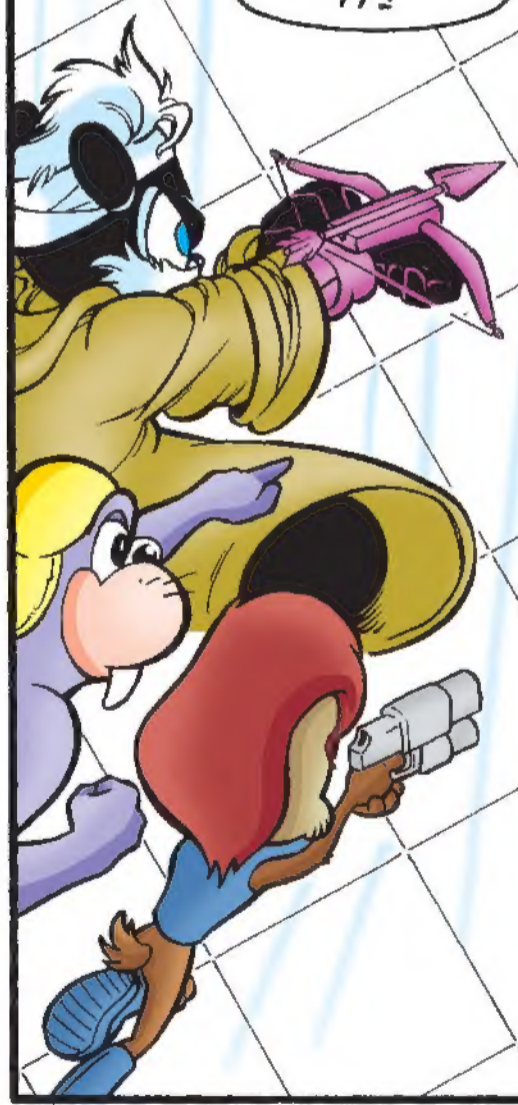
ENOUGH! YOU HAVE ALL FORCED MY HAND! NOW WE MUST END THIS! SWIFTLY! KODOS! HMA!



FWA-SHAKET

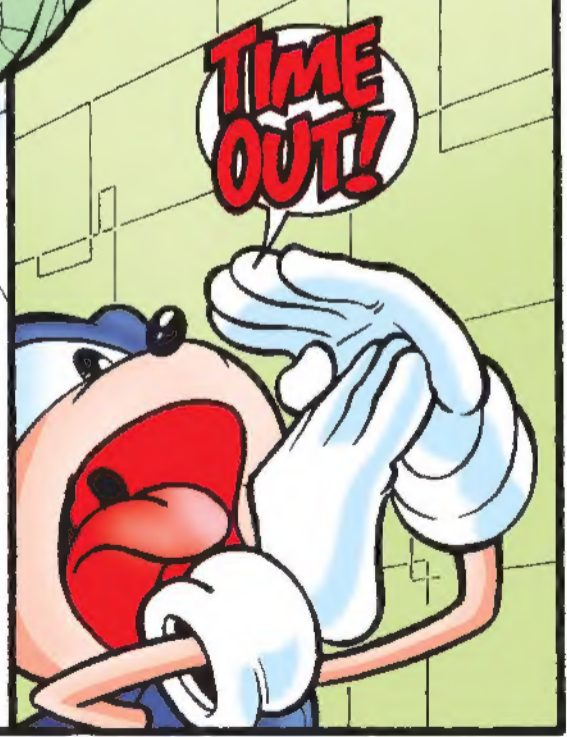
BE TRANSFORMED!

DESTROY THEM ALL! I COMMAND IT!

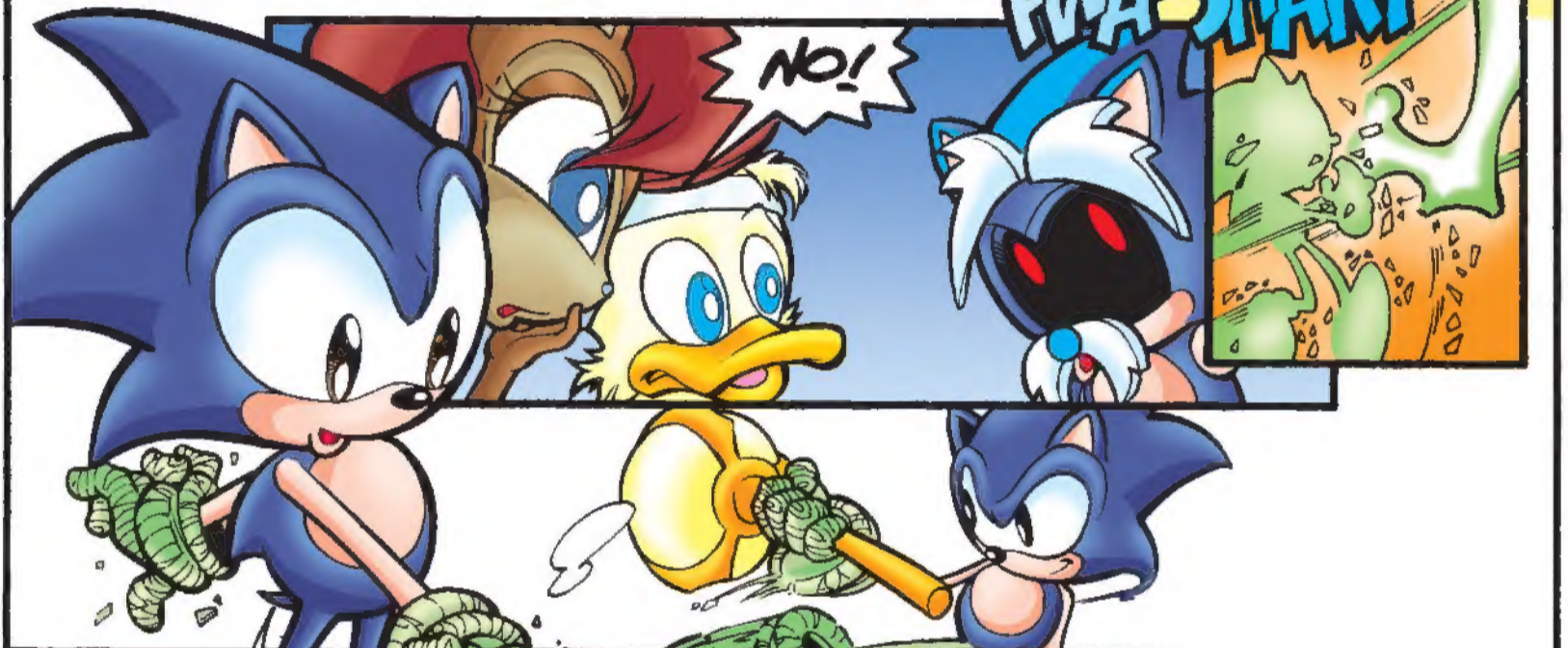
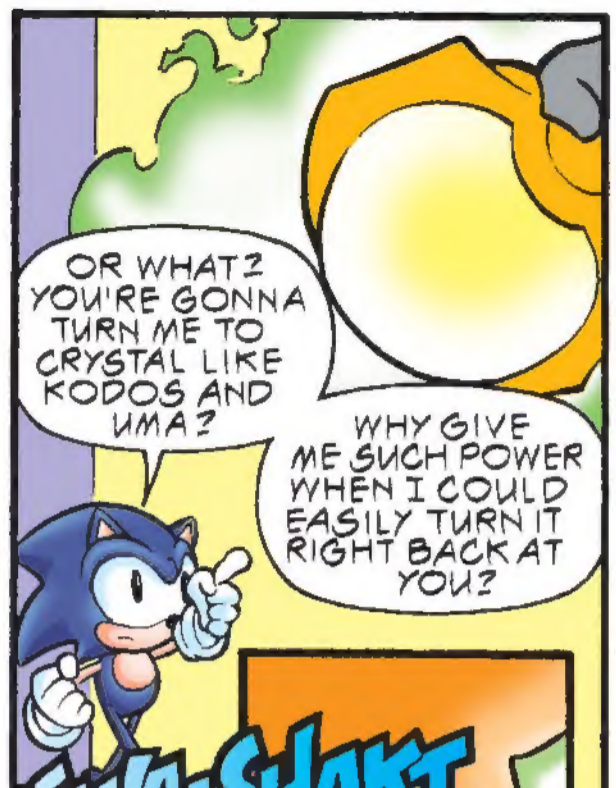
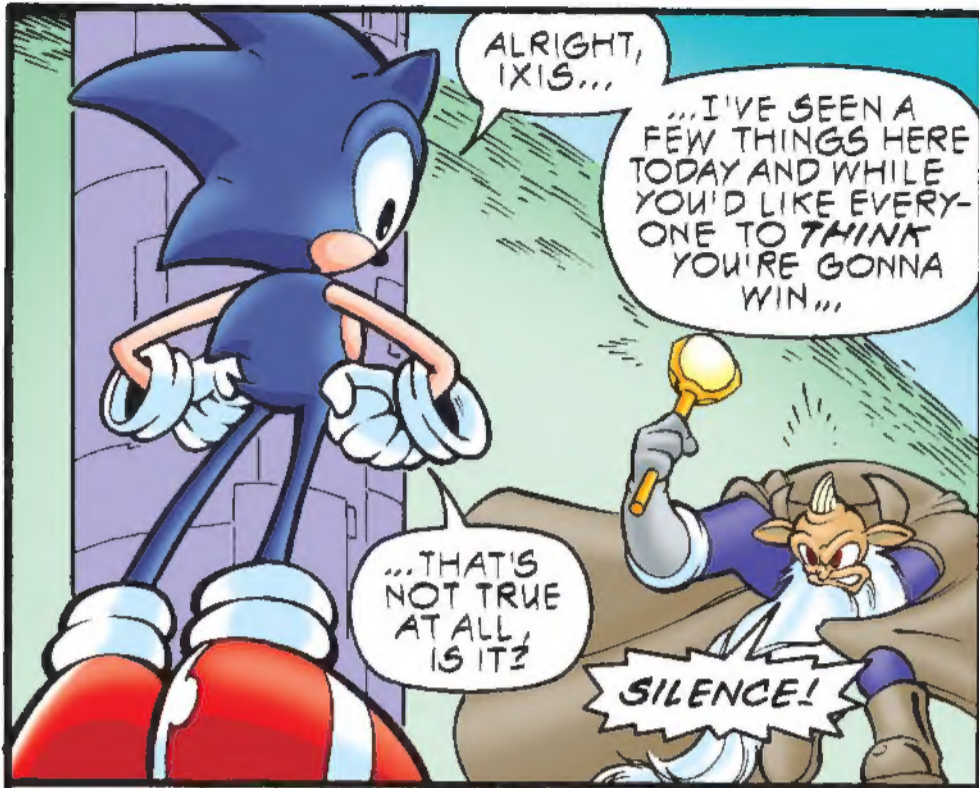


THERE IS NO HOPE!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



TIME OUT!



FWOOSH

LOOK!
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?

WITHOUT
IXIS' WAND
TO POWER
THEM, THEY'RE
LIKE PUPPETS
WITHOUT
STRINGS!

WHERE IS THAT
HORN-HEADED CREEP,
ANYWAY?

GONE!
YOU THINK HE'S
DESTROYED?

FOR GOOD, ROTOR?!
THAT'LL BE THE DAY!
WHY, THESE WOULD-BE
WORLD CONQUERORS
ARE A HEARTY BREED...

**A NEW DAY
DONE!**

AND WHO KNOWS
WHAT TOMORROW
WILL BRING? RECRE-
ATION OR WRECKAGE?
NO ONE CAN SAY...

...NOT
EVEN... **SONIC!**

JOIN US AGAIN IN SONIC #54 AND KNUCKLES #7
AS OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD CONTINUES INTO OVERDRIVE!